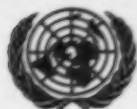


United Nations

A/HRC/27/15



General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 June 2014

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Twenty-seventh session

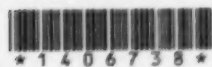
Agenda item 6

Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review^{*}

Qatar

^{*} The annex to the present report is circulated as received.
GE.14-06738 (E)



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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its nineteenth session from 28 April to 9 May 2014. The review of Qatar was held at the 15th meeting, on 7 May 2014. The delegation of Qatar was headed by Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs for International Cooperation. At its 18th meeting, held on 9 May 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Qatar.
2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Qatar: Cuba, India and Italy.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Qatar:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/QAT/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/QAT/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/QAT/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Qatar through the troika. Those questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of delegation said that it was a pleasure to meet the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Qatar appreciated the important role played by the Working Group in helping States to better fulfil their obligations under international human rights law. The periodic review process represented a valuable opportunity for Qatar to make a critical and proper analysis of the situation, in order to improve and develop its internal practices.
6. By a decision of 2010, the Council of Ministers had requested the committee that prepared the initial report to continue its work and had entrusted it with the preparation of subsequent reports and with following up the recommendations of the Working Group. That committee was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and its 10 other members were drawn from various ministries and councils. The consultation process was broad, involving coordination and cooperation with related stakeholders.
7. For Qatar, the promotion and protection of human rights was a strategic choice that constituted the backbone of the comprehensive development policy enshrined in the Qatar National Vision 2030, which involved constitutional, economic, social and cultural reforms. That policy included important topics related to key human rights issues in the areas of education, health, the environment, expatriate workers' rights, women's empowerment and

child rights. The aim of the National Development Strategy (2011-2016) was to transform the objectives of the National Vision 2030 into reality in the years to come.

8. In a short period, Qatar had become a State in which the rule of law prevailed, with institutions that upheld the rights and maintained the dignity of all. The Government responded swiftly and effectively to all human rights issues and concerns, in support of its endeavours to achieve human development, to develop democracy and civilization, and to maintain the prosperity and well-being enjoyed by Qatar. It considered that many of the recommendations presented during the interactive dialogue of its first review had already been implemented or were in the process of being implemented.

9. The most significant developments since the adoption of the initial report included the amendment by Qatar of the Criminal Code by the introduction of an explicit definition of torture that was fully consistent with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in addition to its enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act No. 15 of 2011, to protect victims and enhance international cooperation against human trafficking, and its espousal of the Arab Initiative to Build National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in the Arab Countries. Its commitment to that Initiative was evident in the financial support that it had offered, which amounted to US\$ 6 million. In addition, Qatar had ratified the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Furthermore, it had established the Qatari National Commission for International Humanitarian Law, recognizing the importance of applying the principles of international humanitarian law in order to protect victims of conflict. Qatar had also established the National Committee for Occupational Health and Safety, in cooperation with experts from the International Labour Organization (ILO), in addition to the Committee on Climate Change and Clean Development and the Qatar Committee for Alliance of Civilizations. It had established the Qatar Foundation for Protection and Social Rehabilitation, a private foundation for the public good that included the Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Children and Women, the Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking and the Social Rehabilitation Centre.

10. Qatar had continued its policy of openness towards hosting international conferences and forums on development, democracy, human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace. Every year, it hosted the Doha Forum and the Doha Conference for Interfaith Dialogue, as well as the U.S.-Islamic World Forum. It had hosted the Fourth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in 2011 and, in April 2014, the preparatory conference for the Sixth Global Forum, to be held in Indonesia in August 2014. In addition, it had hosted the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Moreover, it would host the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held from 12 to 19 April 2015 in Doha.

11. Qatar attached great importance to international cooperation and deployed considerable human and financial resources in that field. In addition, it offered development assistance to developing countries around the world. In 2011 and 2012, it had provided humanitarian and development assistance (governmental and non-governmental) amounting to over 3 billion Qatar riyals (QR). It provided assistance to 100 countries, in particular to least developed countries, to help them achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The contributions of Qatar also included humanitarian and development initiatives, such as: "Hope For", an initiative to improve the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defences in response to natural disasters; "Protecting Education in Insecurity and Armed Conflict", an initiative to support and promote the right to education in crisis, conflict and war zones; "Al-Fakhurah", an initiative to support and protect students and schools in conflict zones, particularly in Gaza; "Silatech", an initiative to expand

employment and business opportunities for young people throughout the Arab world; and "Reach Out to Asia (ROTA)", an initiative to enable communities in Asia to overcome obstacles and establish links in order to achieve education for all.

12. Since February 2010, Qatar had taken serious steps to implement the recommendations of the Working Group at the national and the international levels in order to promote human rights, based on its enduring desire to improve the human rights situation in Qatar and to strengthen constructive cooperation with the relevant special procedures. That desire had been confirmed when Qatar had accepted the recommendation to extend an open and standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders. Qatar had received a visit from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants in November 2013 and, in January 2014, had welcomed the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. It had received the visit of a delegation of the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights in March 2014, as well as the visits of numerous non-governmental human rights organizations. Since May 2010, Qatar had continued to strengthen its relationship with the OHCHR through bilateral consultations. Moreover, Qatar continued to support the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha.

13. Qatar faced particular challenges as it underwent a rapid and historic transition towards complete and comprehensive development. It had recorded unprecedented rates of growth and economic recovery, and had been ranked first among the countries of North Africa and the Middle East and eighteenth on the global scale by the World Economic Forum in the *Human Capital Report 2013*. Although there had been numerous developments in Qatar with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights in terms of legislation, institutions and awareness, some temporary obstacles remained. Those included the unprecedented population increase of over 100 per cent in recent years, and the fact that legislative and institutional developments were recent and that Qatar had only recently dealt with international human rights mechanisms.

14. Qatar emphasized its appreciation for the contribution of expatriate workers, whom it considered to be real partners in the development and advancement project pursued by the State.

15. In the context of enhancing and strengthening the legislative structure, Qatar was conducting a comprehensive review of labour laws and of procedures and policies to promote and protect the rights of workers, citizens and residents in accordance with international standards. The competent authorities were also considering a draft regulatory mechanism for domestic workers. In addition, the Entry, Exit, Residence and Sponsorship of Expatriates Act and the Labour Code were under review, with a view to their being developed.

16. Qatar was considering accession to both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

17. The delegation of Qatar was ready to work to develop appropriate strategies and mechanisms to follow up on the recommendations that the Working Group would put forward. Qatar realized that much more needed to be done; therefore, it would continue to build on and improve its achievements through the exchange of experiences, taking advantage of international best practices. Lastly, it should be emphasized that political will and a supportive environment for the promotion and protection of human rights existed in Qatar.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 84 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.
19. Slovenia welcomed the progress achieved with regard to women's rights in Qatar but remained concerned about discrimination in law and violence against women, including within the family. It shared the concerns of other delegations with regard to the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants.
20. Somalia noted the progress achieved in Qatar since the first cycle. It welcomed the economic development achieved and the successful policies pursued in the legislative, institutional and other sectors.
21. Spain congratulated Qatar on the establishment of its National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) and other human rights institutions, and noted the legislation introduced to protect private sector and migrant workers. It welcomed the de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 2003.
22. The State of Palestine welcomed the withdrawal of the general reservation to articles 21 and 22 and of the reservations to articles 1 and 16 of the Convention against Torture. It encouraged Qatar to take the recommendation of NHRC into account, and welcomed the awareness campaigns conducted on women's and children's rights.
23. The Sudan applauded the steps taken by Qatar to implement the previous recommendations of the Working Group, and expressed appreciation for its efforts to help Arab countries through development projects such as the ROTA initiative to support communities in Asia. It also commended the role played by Qatar to support peace in Darfur.
24. Sweden welcomed the ratification by Qatar of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the establishment of an institution for women's empowerment and efforts to promote gender equality. It noted that the Cybercrime Act of 2013 could restrict freedom of expression, and that migrant workers were vulnerable as a result of the sponsorship (kafala) system.
25. Switzerland expressed concern that migrant workers were still subject to human rights violations. Although 28 per cent of women in Qatar were victims of domestic violence, there were no laws to protect them.
26. The Syrian Arab Republic noted a lack of objectivity in reporting. It expressed concerns regarding the role of charitable institutions in Qatar in the absence of transparency and, also, regarding delays in the ratification of international treaties.
27. Thailand applauded the steps taken to promote human rights in Qatar and the assistance that Qatar offered to other countries, including as a migrant-receiving country. It welcomed the commitment of Qatar to providing affordable health care, as well as the establishment of the Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Children and Women.
28. Tunisia welcomed the steps taken by Qatar since 2009 to establish a standing committee to prepare the national report for the UPR process and to improve the national legislative framework. It took note of the establishment of various national plans and strategies, such as the National Vision 2030.
29. Turkey commended the progress achieved by Qatar in human rights in the context of the reform process and the National Vision 2030. It highlighted measures to improve gender equality and to strengthen the status of women in society, in addition to the lively debate on expatriate employee rights.

30. Turkmenistan noted the establishment of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, in addition to the adoption of legislative and policy measures to combat domestic violence and the exploitation of women and children.
31. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted the progress made in combating human trafficking, providing protection against torture and increasing opportunities for women. While it welcomed efforts to promote migrant workers' rights, it urged Qatar to reform the kafala system. It remained concerned that there was no specific law criminalizing domestic violence.
32. Portugal welcomed the establishment of the NHRC and the standing invitation extended by Qatar to the special procedures. It noted that the Qatar National Vision 2030 reaffirmed the need to strengthen women's capacities and to empower women.
33. Uruguay recognized the cooperation of Qatar with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.
34. Uzbekistan noted the achievements of Qatar in promoting human, social and economic rights and welcomed the adoption of the National Development Strategy 2011-2016. It noted the strengthening of the role of women in society and the protection of children's rights.
35. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recognized the progress made by Qatar in implementing the recommendations of the first UPR cycle. It noted the introduction of legislative and governance measures to improve social development and welcomed the Education and Training Strategy 2011-2016.
36. Viet Nam noted the measures taken to address human trafficking, to prevent torture and to improve health care and education. It noted with satisfaction the creation of a committee to consider accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
37. Yemen welcomed the improvements made to the legislative framework for human rights in Qatar, including the adoption of the Health Insurance Act, the Criminal Code and the Human Trafficking Act. It also welcomed initiatives to protect women, persons with disabilities and children, in addition to the humanitarian and developmental support provided by Qatar to least developed countries.
38. Afghanistan noted the establishment of the Qatar Foundation for Social Action to monitor human rights bodies and institutions, as well as the efforts made by Qatar to raise public awareness of human rights and to protect the rights of migrant workers.
39. Albania noted the adoption of legal and administrative measures, including the Human Trafficking Act and the Health and Education Fund Act, and of various sectoral strategies in the area of integrated social development.
40. Algeria welcomed the improvements made to the legislative framework, including the adoption of acts to prevent human trafficking. It also welcomed the launch of national strategies to promote human rights.
41. Angola noted the progress achieved in education, health and employment, as well as in the protection of children's rights. It asked about measures taken to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment.
42. Argentina congratulated Qatar on the establishment of the NHRC, as well as on the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2011-2016 and on improvements in women's rights. It encouraged Qatar to provide greater legal protection for migrant workers.

43. Armenia expressed appreciation for the legislative and institutional initiatives taken by Qatar to improve human rights, its policy of promoting tolerance and diversity and its programmes to raise awareness of human rights. It was concerned that Qatar had not yet ratified some international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
44. Australia commended Qatar on its issuance of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders. It welcomed the efforts of Qatar to improve the situation of migrant workers, and the interest it had shown in acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
45. Austria commended Qatar on its efforts to ratify human rights treaties, its cooperation with the United Nations and its promotion of press freedom. It remained concerned that migrant workers could be prevented from leaving the country by their employers.
46. Azerbaijan noted that Qatar had strengthened its normative and institutional human rights framework. It expressed appreciation for the endorsement by Qatar of the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan of the NHRC and its adoption of the Human Trafficking Act in 2011.
47. Bangladesh praised Qatar for the progress made in empowering women, for its legislation on health and education, and for the protection of the family and children under the Overall Family Strategy. It wished to know how Qatar aimed to improve the situation of foreign workers.
48. Belgium welcomed the follow-up by Qatar on implementation of the recommendations of the first UPR cycle and its cooperation with the Human Rights Council. It expressed its continuing concern in respect of the situation of migrant workers.
49. Benin congratulated Qatar on its efforts to implement the recommendations of the first cycle, notably through action against human trafficking, the creation of the Health and Education Fund and the adoption of the Health and Social Security Act.
50. Brazil noted that Qatar had withdrawn reservations to the Convention against Torture in the context of follow-up to the previous recommendations, and encouraged additional progress in women's rights and gender equality. It expressed concern at the situation of migrant workers.
51. Brunei Darussalam welcomed the continued commitment of Qatar to human rights, as well as the legislative measures taken, the development of the National Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy 2011-2016.
52. Burkina Faso noted the progress achieved by Qatar in implementing the recommendations that it had accepted in 2010, including by the adoption of the Human Trafficking Act of 2011 and the introduction of a definition of torture in the Criminal Code. It noted the contribution made by Qatar to combating poverty through development aid.
53. Canada asked about tangible steps taken to implement the recommendations accepted by Qatar following the previous review regarding women's rights and the prevention of discrimination and violence against women. It encouraged Qatar to pursue its efforts to prevent and punish domestic violence in order to meet targets by 2016.
54. Chad welcomed the adjustments made by Qatar with regard to human rights pursuant to the recommendations of the first cycle, including the introduction of anti-human trafficking legislation and the creation of a national commission for the implementation of international humanitarian law.

55. Chile commended the commitment of Qatar to the promotion and protection of human rights and its efforts to implement Human Rights Council resolutions.
56. China appreciated the efforts expended by Qatar to promote and protect human rights in the framework of sustainable social development, in addition to its establishment of the National Vision 2030 and the active provision of assistance to developing countries.
57. Comoros commended Qatar on its awareness-raising campaigns on human rights, its abrogation of laws that discriminated against women, its promotion of a culture of peace, its financial support of human rights organizations and its active provision of assistance to developing countries.
58. Costa Rica commended Qatar on the measures it had taken to improve human rights, and encouraged it to ensure the protection of all workers in the preparations for the 2022 International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup. It expressed concern in respect of a bill that would prohibit homosexuals and transvestites from living or working in Qatar.
59. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the fact that Qatar had implemented a strategic plan to strengthen human rights and conducted awareness-raising campaigns, and noted its promotion of the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly.
60. Cuba commended Qatar on the National Vision 2030, as well as on the provision of free health care, education, water and electricity and the steps taken to improve the living conditions of children with disabilities. It noted the assistance provided by Qatar to developing countries.
61. The head of delegation said that he wished to respond to the allegations and accusations made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.
62. The Syrian Arab Republic raised a point of order, indicating that the Syrian statement had been objective. In fact, it had displayed restraint and adhered to the principles of UPR since no mention had been made of the inhuman role played by Qatar in the Syrian Arab Republic. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic requested the President to urge Qatar to refrain from using provocative language and to respond objectively to the Syrian statement.
63. The President reminded delegations that the UPR procedure required them to focus on the human rights situation in the country under review. The procedure was based on reports and recommendations, and it was essential to avoid confrontation regarding bilateral issues.
64. The representative of Qatar said that the Qatar Foundation for Protection and Social Rehabilitation provided legal guidance and counselling to women victims of violence, as well as assistance in filing complaints. Special offices had been set up in health centres and hospitals to receive complaints of violence and to provide support. Victims were also provided with free legal support. Women and child victims could seek refuge in special shelters. A hotline for victims of violence operated 24 hours a day. The Foundation recorded such cases in a database, preserving confidentiality. The services provided to victims were taken into account in formulating policies and conducting research, with a view to promoting reform and enhancing rehabilitation and legal assistance.
65. Workers could file complaints with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs against employers who failed to comply with working conditions. If an amicable settlement could not be reached, the case was referred to the competent court. Some 8,000 complaints had been filed in 2012, of which some 6,500 had been settled and some 600 had been referred to the courts. The corresponding figures for 2013 were approximately 10,000, 8,000 and 600 cases, respectively. The Labour Code set out the basic rules

governing the establishment of trade unions. The demographic composition of the country and the ratio of migrant workers to Qatari workers were taken into account. Forced labour was prohibited under article 43 of the Labour Code. Qatar had ratified the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105). The Human Trafficking Act (Act No. 15 of 2011) prohibited forced labour and contemporary forms of slavery, prescribing penalties of up to 15 years' imprisonment and fines of up to QR 300,000.

66. Ministerial Decision No. 15 of 2005 and articles 104 and 105 of the Labour Code required employers to provide a first aid kit for every 25 employees, and required those employing more than 100 employees to provide a medical service. Routine tests should be conducted free of charge for employees engaged in hazardous work.

67. The Nationality Act was applied in accordance with the Constitution. The legal status of Qatari women married to foreigners in no way interfered with their enjoyment of human rights. The Act accorded priority in the acquisition of citizenship to children born of a Qatari mother, and recognized children born of unknown parents as Qatari nationals.

68. Serious steps were being taken at the highest level to amend the law on the kafala system in order to align it with international human rights law and the rights of migrants.

69. The age of criminal responsibility was 7 years. Cases involving minors were heard by juvenile courts, which applied juvenile legislation. Special police officers and prosecutors dealt with such cases.

70. With regard to sexual freedoms and same-sex marriage, sharia law was the main source of Qatari legislation, pursuant to article 1 of the Constitution. The corresponding principles were reflected in articles 279 to 289 of the Criminal Code.

71. The death penalty was applicable to anyone who killed another person with premeditation under the highly specific circumstances defined in articles 300 and 302 of the Criminal Code. However, the death penalty had not been imposed since 2003.

72. The Czech Republic commended Qatar on its efforts to advance human rights, notably for extending a standing invitation to all special procedures.

73. Denmark encouraged Qatar to strengthen independent monitoring systems, especially for detention facilities. It expressed concern about the lack of rights for and legal protection of immigrant workers, and about reported exploitation and abuse of domestic and construction workers.

74. Ecuador welcomed the creation of mechanisms in Qatar to protect women, children and the elderly and of institutions for social assistance, in addition to the importance attached by Qatar to the development of human rights plans, programmes and strategies with civil society and with public and private national institutions and to sharing experiences and information at the national and international levels.

75. France welcomed the delegation of Qatar and made several recommendations.

76. Germany acknowledged the first steps taken by Qatar to heed the recommendations of the previous cycle, most notably the recent adoption of labour welfare standards aimed at protecting workers' rights.

77. Ghana commended Qatar for conducting programmes to promote a culture of human rights, for issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures and for amending its Criminal Code to align its definition of torture with that in the Convention against Torture.

78. Greece noted positively the numerous efforts of Qatar to promote women's rights and asked about the steps it envisaged taking next to advance women's participation in

public life. Recognizing the measures that had been taken, it asked about the results of the implementation of the Human Trafficking Act and the associated National Plan.

79. India welcomed the reforms introduced and the measures taken by Qatar, including on human trafficking, health, education, the environment, greater protection for children and empowerment of women. It looked forward to further initiatives on the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights and noted the commitment of Qatar to human rights through its provision of aid and assistance.

80. Indonesia welcomed measures to promote a culture of human rights, family values and migrant rights, particularly female domestic workers' rights, and expressed the hope that Qatar would continue to promote family values at the international level.

81. Ireland welcomed the cooperation of Qatar with the special procedures but expressed concern at reported widespread violations of migrant workers' rights in the preparations for the FIFA World Cup, at the kafala system and the denial of freedom of movement, and at restrictions faced by civil society organizations.

82. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended Qatar on its integrated social development, noting the attention paid to improving the situation of women, children and persons with disabilities and measures taken to consolidate the family and its essential role in the community.

83. Italy expressed particular appreciation for the medium-term perspective adopted by Qatar, including through the National Vision 2030 and measures to reform and debate the kafala system, in particular in view of projects related to the FIFA World Cup. It welcomed the de facto moratorium on capital punishment and the progress achieved on freedom of expression, but expressed concern at the current debate on a new media law.

84. Japan noted the measures taken to promote women's participation and protect children's rights and encouraged Qatar to continue its efforts to advance the legal and social status of women. It appreciated the cooperation of Qatar with international human rights mechanisms, and its commitment to improving the living conditions of migrant workers.

85. Jordan noted the progress achieved in economic, social and cultural rights in Qatar, particularly the rights to health and education. It welcomed efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional human rights framework by the adoption and the amendment of laws on matters such as torture, trafficking and health.

86. Kuwait appreciated the commitment, efforts and achievements of Qatar in the field of migrant workers' rights, including the adoption of laws and procedures. It commended Qatar for the introduction of measures to enforce the minimum wage for migrant workers, and for conducting awareness programmes in that regard.

87. Lebanon expressed appreciation for the efforts of Qatar to promote human rights and the progress achieved in that regard at the legislative and institutional levels, and in the implementation of previously accepted recommendations.

88. Libya recognized the progress achieved by Qatar towards improving human rights by its ratification of a number of international treaties. It noted the progress achieved in protecting the rights of children and persons with disabilities under the national strategic plan.

89. Malaysia commended Qatar on the enactment and amendment of human rights legislation and welcomed the progress made in combating human trafficking. It encouraged Qatar to continue to implement policies and programmes designed to enhance and promote human rights.

90. Maldives congratulated Qatar on the measures taken to combat trafficking in persons and protect trafficking victims. It welcomed the amendments introduced to the Criminal Code, particularly the inclusion of a definition of torture, as well as efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change.
91. Mauritania noted the progress made by Qatar in protecting the rights of women, children and migrant workers, and the steps taken to combat human trafficking. It welcomed the establishment of national institutions to promote human rights.
92. Norway expressed concerns over the working and living conditions of foreign workers, particularly female domestic workers in private households, and discrimination against women. It appreciated the fact that no executions had been carried out since 1995.
93. Montenegro noted the establishment of the NHRC and the introduction of legislative reforms to eliminate discrimination against women and promote gender equality. It asked about the plans of Qatar to criminalize all forms of violence against women, including marital rape.
94. Morocco commended Qatar on its achievements in improving the human rights situation, on initiatives to protect women and children and on its strengthening of human rights legislation and the institutional framework, in particular by the establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Qatar Foundation to Combat Human Trafficking, and for its efforts to prevent torture.
95. Nepal expressed appreciation for the legislative and institutional measures introduced by Qatar, which were linked to the National Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy. It commended Qatar for the efforts made to improve economic, social and cultural rights, particularly in respect of women's empowerment and the protection of children's rights and the rights of persons with disabilities.
96. The Netherlands welcomed the cooperation of Qatar with the special procedures. The greatest human rights challenge would be the position and rights of migrant workers in Qatar, an issue that commanded attention worldwide.
97. Nicaragua commended the progress achieved and measures taken to implement the recommendations from the first review, particularly with regard to human trafficking, health, education, social assistance and development.
98. The Niger welcomed the measures taken to promote gender equality, guarantee women's rights, strengthen the family and protect children's rights. It encouraged Qatar to continue to develop its institutions and legislation.
99. Nigeria noted the establishment of the Foundation for Social Action and urged Qatar to broaden the Foundation's mandate to include raising public awareness of human rights. It invited Qatar to expedite the incorporation of international conventions into the national legislation.
100. Mexico welcomed the cooperation of Qatar with international human rights protection mechanisms, including its withdrawal of reservations to the Convention against Torture, the recent visits by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, and the amendment of the Criminal Code to include a definition of torture.
101. Oman welcomed improvements to the legislative and administrative frameworks based on the Qatar National Vision 2030 and other strategies. It noted the efforts expended in respect of education, health and the rights of persons with disabilities.
102. Pakistan appreciated the incorporation of key socioeconomic indicators in the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy. It noted the efforts

expended by Qatar to protect the rights of women and migrant workers, to combat domestic violence and to cooperate with international human rights protection mechanisms.

103. The Philippines highlighted the assistance provided by Qatar to developing countries. It encouraged Qatar to continue supporting international and regional partners to combat human trafficking, and urged it to step up implementation of policies and programmes aimed at promoting workers' rights in accordance with international standards.

104. The United States of America urged Qatar to take action against the violation of labour laws and to strengthen workers' rights. It expressed concern that individuals were imprisoned simply for exercising their freedom of expression, as well as concern about media restrictions and censorship.

105. The Republic of Moldova asked what measures had been taken to provide migrant workers with legal protection and access to justice. While welcoming legal and institutional developments in Qatar, it noted the concerns of treaty bodies about gaps in fully addressing the issue of human trafficking.

106. Romania asked about steps being taken to revise education laws to protect and ensure the right to education for all in accordance with the National Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy 2011-2016.

107. The Russian Federation noted that some progress had been achieved since the first review. It also noted the existence of some inconsistencies with international human rights standards, including in the area of gender equality.

108. Rwanda noted the progress achieved in human rights, especially the adoption of legislation on human trafficking, education and health care. It commended the National Vision 2030 and appreciated that it included women's empowerment and children's rights.

109. Senegal noted that Qatar had acceded to various international and regional human rights instruments and had endeavoured to ensure socioeconomic rights and to combat human trafficking. It encouraged Qatar to continue with its positive efforts.

110. Sierra Leone commended Qatar for the legislation enacted and awareness-raising campaigns conducted to combat human trafficking. It urged Qatar to make further efforts to protect the rights of migrant workers, in particular female domestic workers, and to strengthen accountability mechanisms to dissuade perpetrators of violence against women.

111. Singapore noted that significant progress had been made in advancing the role of women in society and that measures had been taken to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society.

112. Sri Lanka noted developments in human rights and asked what efforts were being made to protect and ensure the right to health for all. It noted progress in the promotion of migrant workers' rights, including those of female domestic workers.

113. Eritrea congratulated Qatar for discharging its obligations to promote and protect the basic human rights of its people, and for its focus on UPR as the main mechanism for doing so.

114. The head of delegation said that human rights principles were incorporated in school curricula at all levels as subjects, exercises or illustrative examples. International instruments, such as those aimed at combating discrimination against women, were used as reference material. A framework for inculcating values such as tolerance, rejection of violence, democracy and freedom of expression, and a framework for family education focusing on health had been prepared. Workshops and symposiums had been organized for

teaching and administrative personnel, and leaflets and handbooks for teachers and students had been disseminated. Measures had been taken to ban corporal punishment in schools. A ministerial decree adopted in 2013 prohibited the use of violence of any kind in schools.

115. Two hundred inspectors were employed in eight regional offices to ensure that workers' rights, including those of migrant workers, were respected in all workplaces. The authorities coordinated with the Central Bank to ensure that appropriate wages were paid. A hotline had been set up for workers wishing to complain or obtain information, and a guide for migrant workers had been published. Full social and medical protection was provided.

116. The Human Trafficking Act of 2011 provided for the protection and rehabilitation of victims. Victims and witnesses were also protected in the event of legal proceedings. The National Plan 2010-2015 provided for 25 programmes, 85 per cent of which had been completed. The National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking had also been updated. A further initiative was aimed at training criminal justice and enforcement personnel and at forging links between all stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking.

117. Qatar had withdrawn its general reservation to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and limited its general reservation to articles 2 and 14 of the Convention. It had withdrawn its reservations to articles 21 and 22 of the Convention against Torture and amended its general reservation thereto within the framework of articles 1 and 16 of the Convention, and had completely refrained from entering general reservations upon its accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

118. Qatar believed in freedom of expression in the media and on social networks, except in the case of violations of moral principles and sharia law.

119. All measures taken against the poet Mohammed Al-'Ajami were consistent with international rules. Mr. Al-Ajami had been given a fair trial and allowed to appeal the judgement to the Court of Appeal and the Court of Cassation.

120. Some statements and recommendations had violated UPR principles, as the interactive dialogue should be conducted in a transparent manner and should not be selective or politicized.

121. The comments and recommendations made during the review would be taken into consideration by Qatar, which was fully committed to enhancing cooperation and consultation with all United Nations human rights mechanisms and to supporting the efforts of the Human Rights Council to realize its noble objectives.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations^{**}

122. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue or listed below enjoy the support of Qatar. It was recommended that Qatar:

122.1 Continue its ongoing review of national laws to ensure that they are in line with its international human rights law obligations (Turkmenistan);

122.2 Continue efforts in the field of legislative and institutional developments (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

^{**} The conclusions and recommendations will not be edited.

- 122.3 Strengthen its national human rights institutions (Somalia);
- 122.4 Continue to strengthen national human rights mechanisms (Nepal);
- 122.5 Enhance efforts to promote human rights (Sudan);
- 122.6 Continue further improvement of the protection and promotion of human rights in the country (Azerbaijan);
- 122.7 Continue its efforts to strengthen the normative and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights (Azerbaijan);
- 122.8 Continue the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2011-2016 in order to realize the objectives of the Qatar National Vision 2030 (Somalia);
- 122.9 Continue actions for the implementation of the objectives/targets of the Qatar National Vision 2030, which plans the evolution, in practice, of the economic, social, cultural, human and environmental development of the State during the next few years (Cuba);
- 122.10 Continue to conduct outreach activities to raise public awareness of human rights (Afghanistan);
- 122.11 Continue to spread human rights awareness throughout the country (Pakistan);
- 122.12 Continue and further expand human rights awareness-raising programmes (Armenia);
- 122.13 Continue to train law enforcement officials and human rights teachers and to raise awareness of the need for tolerance and harmony among races and ethnic groups and for intercultural relations (State of Palestine);
- 122.14 Organize more human rights education activities for staff of public services, particularly law enforcement officers (Viet Nam);
- 122.15 Continue efforts to amend national laws and legislation in order to ensure that they are in conformity with the recommendations made by treaty bodies (Lebanon);
- 122.16 Continue and strengthen relations with OHCHR (Kuwait);
- 122.17 Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children (Brunei Darussalam);
- 122.18 Continue endeavours to promote and protect the rights of children and women (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 122.19 Further strengthen the promotion of the rights of women and girls (Maldives);
- 122.20 Continue to promote gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women and girls in accordance with its obligations under the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Singapore);
- 122.21 Improve legislation in order to better implement the provisions of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Russian Federation);
- 122.22 Continue making efforts to improve the normative framework for the protection of women in Qatar (Nicaragua);

- 122.23 Continue efforts to improve gender equality and strengthen women's status in society (Turkey);
- 122.24 Follow up government action to empower women and combat female stereotypes (Lebanon);
- 122.25 Continue efforts towards female empowerment and achieve gender equality (Eritrea);
- 122.26 Denounce gender discrimination (Nigeria);
- 122.27 Continue measures aimed at improving the status of women in society and protect them from all forms of discrimination (Algeria);
- 122.28 Further promote gender equality so that women play a greater role in economic and social development (China);
- 122.29 Continue its efforts to enhance women's role in society and their effective involvement in the development process, as well as enabling their participation in economic, political and business activities in the country (Romania);
- 122.30 Continue to take necessary measures to enable women to be equal partners in development and decision-making (India);
- 122.31 Continue efforts to improve the status of women in society and promote gender equality at all levels, thereby enhancing the contribution of women to the development process (Sri Lanka);
- 122.32 Continue its commendable efforts to empower women in social, political, economic and public life, including by continuing its positive campaigning to raise awareness of women's rights (Malaysia);
- 122.33 Continue efforts to ensure the representation of women at all levels of the political process and their participation in public life (Chile);
- 122.34 Address the issue of the election of women to parliament (the Shura Council) (Ghana);
- 122.35 Take concrete steps to enhance women's awareness of their rights and guarantee and increase women's public and political participation (Czech Republic);
- 122.36 Strengthen measures to ensure gender equality, particularly in the transmission of nationality to the children of women married to non-citizens (Argentina);
- 122.37 Continue its efforts to end discrimination against women by taking all necessary measures to eliminate obstacles to their access to all fields of society, including the justice system (Sweden);
- 122.38 Facilitate women's access to justice and mainstream a gender-based approach to justice and employment (Sierra Leone);
- 122.39 Continue improving women's empowerment programmes and address issues of discrimination and domestic violence by intensifying awareness-raising campaigns and providing better access to remedies for all victims of domestic violence, including migrant workers irrespective of their legal status (Philippines);
- 122.40 Follow up efforts made to protect children from violence (Jordan);

- 122.41 Take measures to combat intrafamily violence (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 122.42 Strengthen efforts to combat violence against women (Ecuador);
- 122.43 Strengthen efforts to prevent violence against women (Rwanda);
- 122.44 Strengthen efforts to prevent violence against women and ensure the accountability of all perpetrators while ensuring victims are provided with adequate redress, reparations and access to full rehabilitation (Slovenia);
- 122.45 Set up an awareness campaign to prevent violence against women (Jordan);
- 122.46 Work to encourage both Qatari and expatriate women to report incidents of sexual violence, such as rape, to the authorities and increase the awareness of police, prosecutors and judges about the seriousness of the issue (Canada);
- 122.47 Continue with efforts to fight against human trafficking (Pakistan);
- 122.48 Continue to strengthen measures to combat human trafficking and child labour (Sri Lanka);
- 122.49 Continue to improve on efforts to combat human trafficking (Nigeria);
- 122.50 Continue to provide protection to victims of trafficking in human beings and to ensure systematic procedures for the identification of victims (Republic of Moldova);
- 122.51 Continue to make efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including through expanding and strengthening international, regional and bilateral cooperation (Uzbekistan);
- 122.52 Ensure the implementation of the existing anti-trafficking legislation (Albania);
- 122.53 Ensure the effective implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 122.54 Continue to implement the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons (Turkey);
- 122.55 Continue to strengthen the family and family values (Malaysia);
- 122.56 Continue to protect the family as the basic social unit (Eritrea);
- 122.57 Continue to pursue the adoption and implementation of legislative or administrative measures aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of the child (Chile);
- 122.58 Provide all the requirements needed to implement the national Family Cohesion and Empowerment of Women Strategy (State of Palestine);
- 122.59 Encourage freedom of expression of opinion and strengthen cooperation and coordination with civil society and non-governmental organizations (Norway);
- 122.60 Continue to improve the social security system so as to provide better safeguards for the elderly, persons with disabilities and migrants (China);

- 122.61 Take necessary measures and steps to improve legislation on the right to health and ensure access for all persons to health services without discrimination (Pakistan);
- 122.62 Strengthen its cooperation with civil society organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights in the area of health services (Angola);
- 122.63 Continue measures to improve the education system and ensure universal access to quality education (Uzbekistan);
- 122.64 Continue to strengthen the cooperation of the State with civil and social organizations working for the promotion and protection of human rights in the area of education (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 122.65 Continue to step up its efforts to integrate the human rights approach in the study plans and programmes of the national education system (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 122.66 Prioritize the education of the girl child (Nigeria);
- 122.67 Continue efforts to provide education for persons with disabilities people and integrate them into society (Oman);
- 122.68 Continue to undertake measures to support and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Singapore);
- 122.69 Pay particular attention to children belonging to vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities and from minority communities (India);
- 122.70 Implement necessary measures to ensure adequate labour conditions and to combat human trafficking (Japan);
- 122.71 Continue the ongoing work on labour sector reform (Benin);
- 122.72 Strengthen measures to protect and promote the rights of foreign workers (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 122.73 Take further measures to protect the rights of migrant workers (Portugal);
- 122.74 Expand efforts to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers (Somalia);
- 122.75 Take the necessary measures to improve the situation of foreign workers (Algeria);
- 122.76 Take the necessary measures to eliminate the discrimination suffered by immigrants, particularly migrant workers (Argentina);
- 122.77 Step up efforts to provide protection to migrant workers, guaranteeing them full access to justice (Chile);
- 122.78 Continue to improve the working conditions of low-paid migrant labourers, especially those working as domestic help and on infrastructure projects (Canada);
- 122.79 Continue with actions aimed at the protection of migrant workers, especially domestic workers, from mistreatment and abuse (Ecuador);
- 122.80 Step up its efforts to strengthen compliance with the Labour Code (Act No. 14 of 2014) and take action to strengthen the effective protection of migrant workers (Spain);

122.81 Continue its efforts to provide development and humanitarian aid to least developed countries (Yemen);

122.82 Strengthen its international cooperation for the sustainable development of the countries of the South (Somalia);

122.83 Continue its humanitarian role and its role in development (Kuwait);

122.84 Continue to play an effective and positive role at the regional and international levels (Sudan).

123. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Qatar, which considers them to be already implemented or in the process of implementation:

123.1 Strengthen the independence of the National Human Rights Committee by limiting the role of government appointees (Ghana);

123.2 Strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Committee in the area of impartial monitoring, investigation, and reception of allegations of torture or ill-treatment (Mexico);

123.3 Significantly improve the implementation of protective measures contained in labour laws, in particular by increasing the number of labour inspectors (Belgium);

123.4 Make adequate labour conditions and decent work an important criterion for granting building contracts and permits and actively improve the enforcement of labour laws, including by applying penalties to and blacklisting contractors who violate the relevant laws and decrees (Netherlands);

123.5 Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the access of migrant workers to justice in civil, criminal and labour courts, as well as to assistance and consular protection (Mexico);

123.6 Step up its efforts to protect the rights of migrant workers and fight against exploitation, ill-treatment and abuse by their employers (Slovenia);

123.7 Ensure that the hotline established to respond to migrant workers' complaints provides appropriate interpretation, to the extent possible (Thailand);

123.8 Harmonize the work of charitable organizations with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (Syrian Arab Republic).

124. The following recommendations will be examined by Qatar, which will provide responses in due course, but no later than the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council in September 2014:

124.1 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Rome Statute, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (France);

124.2 Consider ratifying those international human rights instruments to which the State is not yet a party (Nicaragua);

124.3 Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Turkmenistan);

124.4 Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and adopt a new media law that respects freedom of expression (United States of America);

124.5 Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto (Rwanda);

124.6 Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as recommended during the first cycle (Slovenia);

124.7 Consider early ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Japan);

124.8 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Montenegro);

124.9 Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Tunisia);

124.10 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as fundamental documents in the area of human rights (Russian Federation);

124.11 Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural (Germany);

124.12 Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Australia);

124.13 Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto (Portugal);

124.14 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria);

124.15 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Maldives);

124.16 Consider ratifying the following international instruments: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the second Optional Protocol thereto; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, implementing the national preventive mechanism (Uruguay);

124.17 Ratify the human rights treaties listed in section I A of the compilation of OHCHR, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, as well as the Optional Protocols to the Convention against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ghana);

124.18 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Costa Rica);

124.19 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as also recommended by the Qatari National Human Rights Committee (Denmark);

124.20 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Tunisia);

124.21 Consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention (Albania);

124.22 Consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention (Indonesia);

124.23 Consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention (Rwanda);

124.24 Ratify the Migrant Workers Convention with a view to better harmonizing national legislation with international norms (Senegal);

124.25 Accede to core human rights instruments to which the State is not yet a party, including the Migrant Workers Convention (Philippines);

124.26 Implement measures to strengthen women's capacities and empower them to participate in political and economic life, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Portugal);

124.27 Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Montenegro);

124.28 Ratify the core ILO conventions, including the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and reform the law on sponsorship, removing the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before changing jobs or leaving the country (Austria);

124.29 Ratify the three remaining core ILO conventions and enforce ratified conventions and the relevant labour laws effectively, with a special focus on the elimination of forced labour (ILO Convention No. 29), while continuing to work in close and active cooperation with ILO and other international organizations (Netherlands);

124.30 Ratify the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and ILO Convention No. 189 (Sierra Leone);

124.31 Accede to ILO Convention No. 189 (Philippines);

124.32 Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);

124.33 Equip the government committee established to consider accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with adequate power and resources to accelerate the process and reach a practical outcome (Viet Nam);

124.34 Integrate the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence in the national legislation regulating the media and religious institutions, and ensure the actual implementation of the Plan (Syrian Arab Republic);

- 124.35 Continue to strengthen protective measures and legal rights for women, and give full citizenship rights to the children of Qatari mothers and non-Qatari fathers (Norway);
- 124.36 Consider granting Qatari nationality to the children of Qatari women married to foreign nationals (Greece);
- 124.37 Achieve real progress with regard to women's rights by reforming the Nationality Act, to ensure gender equality and to give Qatari women the right to transmit their nationality to their children, and by withdrawing reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto (France);
- 124.38 Amend the legislation to eliminate discrimination against women with respect to the transmission of nationality to their children and the registration of civil acts (Mexico);
- 124.39 Amend Act No. 22 of 2006 on family and personal status matters to eliminate provisions that lead to discrimination against women, for example the failure of the law to criminalize marital rape (Spain);
- 124.40 Take the necessary measures to amend national laws that allow discrimination against women so that those laws are in line with international human rights standards, and criminalize domestic violence (Switzerland);
- 124.41 Take effective actions to ensure that women are fully protected from discrimination and violence, including by criminalizing domestic violence against women, adopt legal measures to guarantee full gender equality, and consider withdrawing reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Germany);
- 124.42 Adopt specific legislation to criminalize all forms of violence against women (Czech Republic);
- 124.43 Criminalize domestic violence and ensure that a broad definition of the crime is applied so as to ensure the protection of all persons concerned, including domestic workers (Belgium);
- 124.44 Continue to build the capacity of an independent judiciary that would process court cases more effectively and independently (Canada);
- 124.45 Strengthen the judicial framework, including due process, freedom of expression and freedom of association (Australia);
- 124.46 Guarantee the exercise of freedom of religion or reach an agreement authorizing the opening of places of worship for people who are neither Muslims nor Christians (France);
- 124.47 Respect the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as accepted during the previous UPR cycle, and refrain from imposing any undue restriction on this right, including with regard to the new draft media law (Germany);
- 124.48 Implement fully legal guarantees for freedom of expression as stipulated in the Constitution, thus allowing Qatari citizens to exercise their freedom of expression and opinion and enabling independent media in the country (Slovenia);
- 124.49 Guarantee freedom of expression by protecting journalists, bloggers and media professionals from arbitrary arrest and detention and from

ensorship, including by amending those provisions in the Criminal Code and the draft media law that are inconsistent with international standards of freedom of expression (France);

124.50 Decriminalize defamation as recommended by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Ghana);

124.51 Refrain from adopting any laws providing for censorship or undue control over the content of the media (Czech Republic);

124.52 Amend those articles of the draft media law and the draft cybercrime law that are inconsistent with international standards of freedom of expression (Austria);

124.53 Take immediate measures to ensure that the national regulations pertaining to the Internet guarantee freedom of expression (Sweden);

124.54 Ensure that the judicial and law enforcement system is not abused to harass individuals for expressing their political or religious views, including on the Internet (Czech Republic);

124.55 Amend the relevant national legislation, including the Law on Associations and Institutions, to reduce restrictions on procedures for establishing associations (Ireland);

124.56 Revise Law No. 18 of 2004 in order to remove restricting conditions for acquiring permission for a public demonstration, and take other steps to guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of assembly and the right of association (Czech Republic);

124.57 Continue efforts to achieve full universal health coverage, including for non-nationals, as part of the National Health Strategy (Thailand);

124.58 Extend the benefits of its health insurance, currently limited to Qataris and citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council countries, to any citizen residing in its territory (Comoros);

124.59 Reform the Labour Code so that it ensures the protection of the labour rights of all workers, including domestic and construction workers, and put in place mechanisms to improve enforcement of the law (Denmark);

214.60 Revise the labour law to protect the rights of all workers without discrimination and ensure their effective access to justice, in cooperation with ILO (Belgium);

124.61 Adopt a new Labour Code or amend the existing Code soon, so as to improve the conditions and rights of migrant and foreign workers (Italy);

124.62 Take active steps to reform its labour laws in order to improve working conditions for foreign workers, to give female domestic workers the necessary legal protection and to address the recent ruling by ILO on forced labour and freedom of association and collective bargaining (Norway);

124.63 Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of migrant workers and to protect their interests through taking the requisite institutional and legislative measures (Nepal);

124.64 Take measures to ensure the access of migrants and non-citizens, especially children, to justice, employment, education, housing and health services (Czech Republic);

- 124.65 Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of migrants, particularly those of female domestic workers (Indonesia);
- 124.66 Adopt all necessary measures, including legislative measures, in order to apply a policy on migrants with a human rights perspective, in particular with regard to the detention of migrants, especially women and children (Uruguay);
- 124.67 Guarantee respect for the rights of migrant workers, in particular by strengthening the capacity of the labour inspectorate, reform the kafala system and ratify ILO Convention No. 189 (France);
- 124.68 Consider abolishing the kafala system for all migrant workers and eliminating the exit permit system (Costa Rica);
- 124.69 Review the kafala system in order to comply with international standards (Sweden);
- 124.70 Establish a timetable for reform of the system of sponsorship-based employment (Brazil);
- 124.71 Abolish or reform the restrictive law on sponsorship, which drives potential labour exploitation and human trafficking, strengthen enforcement of the labour law, continue to increase awareness of human rights of migrant workers, and expand legal protections (United States of America);
- 124.72 Reform the sponsorship system, removing the requirement for foreign workers to obtain permission before leaving Qatar or moving jobs (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 124.73 Abolish the exit visa system for foreign workers (Brazil);
- 124.74 Abolish the exit visa system for migrant workers (Ireland);
- 124.75 Remove the requirement in the law on sponsorship for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before moving jobs or leaving the country, and ensure that the rights of migrant workers are protected (Australia);
- 124.76 Improve the legal protection of migrant workers, apply the provisions of the labour laws that prohibit the retention of passports of migrant workers, strengthen institutional controls for the protection of migrant workers, and remove or amend the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain their sponsor's consent in order to obtain exit visas (Switzerland);
- 124.77 Take further urgent steps to address the concerns raised during the session about the recruitment and treatment of foreign workers (Ghana);
- 124.78 Abolish the laws on sponsorship and include domestic workers in laws that protect workers (Spain);
- 124.79 Ensure that the draft law on domestic workers, which it is hoped will be adopted very soon, is in line with ILO Convention No. 189 (Uruguay);
- 124.80 Develop a specific strategy to ensure that domestic workers can file complaints in cases of violence and abuse, without fear of reprisal or harassment (Belgium);
- 124.81 Reform labour laws to ensure that domestic workers are legally protected and improve the enforcement of those laws, in order to ensure that

the rights of foreign workers in Qatar are guaranteed (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

124.82 Adopt legal provisions that guarantee migrant workers the right to join trade unions (Spain);

124.83 Hold regular meetings of agreed institutional mechanisms to address issues pertaining to migrant workers and ensure dialogue under such arrangements (India);

124.84 Maintain its commitment to dedicating 0.7 per cent of gross national income to overseas development assistance in order to support economic and social rights in poor countries (Sierra Leone).

125. The following recommendations did not enjoy the support of Qatar:

125.1 Examine the possibility of introducing a formal moratorium on the death penalty (Switzerland);

125.2 Establish a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to ratifying the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);

125.3 Consider the possibility of adopting a *de jure* moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);

125.4 Commute all death sentences, declare a moratorium on executions and move towards abolition of the death penalty (Norway);

125.5 Abolish the death penalty (Portugal);

125.6 Initiate a public debate with a view to abolishing the death penalty *de jure*, after more than 10 years of *de facto* moratorium on executions (France);

125.7 Release all prisoners of conscience, including the poet Mohammed Al-'Ajami, and respect the rights of all individuals to freedom of expression (United States of America).

126. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as having been endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Qatar was headed by Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs for International Cooperation and was composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Faisal Abdulla Al-Henzab, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- H.E. Sheikh Khaled bin Jassim Al-Thani, Director of Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Mr. Mohammed Khalid Al-Maadeed, Member of the Advisory Council, the Advisory Council;
- Dr. Mohammed Ebrahim Shahbeck, Legal Expert, the Advisory Council;
- Colonel. Abdulla Al-Muhannadi, Director of Human Rights Bureau, Ministry of Interior;
- Ms. Maryam Yousuf ARAB, Assistant to the Director of Juridical Studies Department, Ministry of Justice;
- Sheikha Hind Al-Thani, Legal specialist, Department of Management conventions and international cooperation, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Saleh Saeed Al-Marri, Director of the Labour Relations Dept. Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs;
- Mr. Mohamed Ali Al-Meer, Assistant to the Director of Inspection Department, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs;
- Mr. Saleh Ali Al-Khaldi, First specialist, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs;
- Dr. Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti, Councillor, Supreme Education Council;
- Ms. Mona Sabah S. Al-Kuwari, Expert analysis, Office of policy analysis, The Supreme Education Council;
- Ms. Wafaa Anbar Al-Nuaimi, First Legal specialist, Supreme council of Health;
- Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Saadi, Director of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage;
- Mr. Youssuf Al-Mulla, Executive Director of the Social Rehabilitation Center;
- Ms. Mariam Al-Maliki, Councilor, the Social Rehabilitation Center;
- Ms. Fareeda Al-Obaidly, the Social Rehabilitation Center;
- Ms. Noor Al-Hur, Legal Expert, the Social Rehabilitation Center;
- Ms. Manal Yousuf Al-Mahmoud, Councilor, Supreme Council of Family Affairs;
- Ms. Hanadi Nedham Al-Shafai, Political Researcher, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

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- Ms. Aisha Saleh Al-Sulaiti, Third International affairs researcher, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Alanoud Kassim Mohammad Al-Tamimi, Third Secretary, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Almuhammad Ali Al-Hammadi, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Qatar in Geneva;
 - Ms. Noor Al-Sada, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Qatar in Geneva;
 - Mr. Jassim Al-Maawda, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Qatar in Geneva;
 - Mr. Saad bin Ali Al-Kharji, Office of the Minister's Assistant for International Cooperation Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Mishaal Saeed Al-Mazroey, Office of the Minister's Assistant for International Cooperation Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Mounira Mohamed Al-Rumaihi, Third International affairs researcher, Office of the Minister's Assistant for International Cooperation Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Ali Abdulrazzaq Marafi, Assistant of the Director of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage;
 - Ms. Noora Mohammed Al-Marzouqi, International Organization Desk Officer, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage;
 - Dr. Mohamed Saeed Mohamed Eltayeb, Legal Expert, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
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General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
15 August 2014
English
Original: Arabic

Human Rights Council
Twenty-seventh session
Agenda item 6
Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

State of Qatar

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.



Position of the State of Qatar on the 84 recommendations which, during the discussion of its second periodic report to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, the State designated for consideration and response before the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>State's position</i>	<i>Reasons (if any)</i>
124.1	Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Rome Statute, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (France).	Recommendation rejected	In the national report and the address by the head of the delegation of the State of Qatar, reference was made to the fact that the State was studying the question of accession to the two International Covenants (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and, consequently, the State accepted all the recommendations concerning accession to those two Covenants. With regard to ratification of other instruments and protocols, the State confirms its political will to accede to the international conventions since it believes in their importance. However, accession to a large number of conventions in a short period of time places pressure and a burden on the State's legislative authorities and, therefore, the State is not currently considering accession to those instruments
124.2	Consider ratifying those international human rights instruments to which the State is not yet a party (Nicaragua).	Recommendation accepted	
124.3	Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Turkmenistan).	Recommendation accepted	
124.4	Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and adopt a new media law that respects freedom of expression (United States of America).	Under implementation (accepted)	
124.5	Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto (Rwanda).	Recommendation accepted	

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>State's position</i>	<i>Reasons (if any)</i>
124.6	Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as recommended during the first cycle (Slovenia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.7	Consider early ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Japan).	Recommendation accepted	
124.8	Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Montenegro).	Recommendation accepted	
124.9	Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Tunisia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.10	Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as fundamental documents in the area of human rights (Russian Federation).	Recommendation accepted	
124.11	Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Germany).	Recommendation accepted	
124.12	Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Australia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.13	Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto (Portugal).	Recommendation rejected	
124.14	Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria).	Recommendation rejected	

No.	Recommendation	State's position	Reasons (if any)
124.15	Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Maldives).	Recommendation rejected	
124.16	Consider ratifying the following international instruments: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the second Optional Protocol thereto; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, implementing the national preventive mechanism (Uruguay).	Recommendation rejected	
124.17	Ratify the human rights treaties listed in section I A of the compilation of OHCHR, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, as well as the Optional Protocols to the Convention against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ghana).	Recommendation rejected	
124.18	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Costa Rica).	Recommendation rejected	
124.19	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as also recommended by the Qatari National Human Rights Committee (Denmark).	Recommendation rejected	
124.20	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Tunisia).	Recommendation rejected	
124.21	Consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention (Albania).	Recommendation rejected	
124.22	Consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention (Indonesia).	Recommendation rejected	
124.23	Consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention (Rwanda).	Recommendation rejected	

No.	Recommendation	State's position	Reasons (if any)
124.24	Ratify the Migrant Workers Convention with a view to better harmonizing national legislation with international norms (Senegal).	Recommendation rejected	
124.25	Accede to core human rights instruments to which the State is not yet a party, including the Migrant Workers Convention (Philippines).	Recommendation rejected	
124.26	Implement measures to strengthen women's capacities and empower them to participate in political and economic life, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Portugal).	Recommendation rejected	
124.27	Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Montenegro).	Recommendation rejected	
124.28	Ratify the core ILO conventions, including the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and reform the law on sponsorship, removing the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before changing jobs or leaving the country (Austria).	Recommendation rejected	
124.29	Ratify the three remaining core ILO conventions and enforce ratified conventions and the relevant labour laws effectively, with a special focus on the elimination of forced labour (ILO Convention No. 29), while continuing to work in close and active cooperation with ILO and other international organizations (Netherlands).	Recommendation rejected	
124.30	Ratify the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and ILO Convention No. 189 (Sierra Leone).	Recommendation rejected	
124.31	Accede to ILO Convention No. 189 (Philippines).	Recommendation rejected	
124.32	Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.33	Equip the government committee established to consider accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with adequate power and resources to accelerate the process and reach a practical outcome (Viet Nam).	Recommendation accepted	

No.	Recommendation	State's position	Reasons (if any)
124.34	Integrate the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence in the national legislation regulating the media and religious institutions, and ensure the actual implementation of the Plan (Syrian Arab Republic).	Recommendation accepted	
124.35	Continue to strengthen protective measures and legal rights for women, and give full citizenship rights to the children of Qatari mothers and non-Qatari fathers (Norway).	Recommendation rejected	
124.36	Consider granting Qatari nationality to the children of Qatari women married to foreign nationals (Greece).	Recommendation rejected	
124.37	Achieve real progress with regard to women's rights by reforming the Nationality Act, to ensure gender equality and to give Qatari women the right to transmit their nationality to their children, and by withdrawing reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto (France).	Recommendation rejected	
124.38	Amend the legislation to eliminate discrimination against women with respect to the transmission of nationality to their children and the registration of civil acts (Mexico).	Recommendation rejected	
124.39	Amend Act No. 22 of 2006 on family and personal status matters to eliminate provisions that lead to discrimination against women, for example the failure of the law to criminalize marital rape (Spain).	Recommendation rejected	
124.40	Take the necessary measures to amend national laws that allow discrimination against women so that those laws are in line with international human rights standards, and criminalize domestic violence (Switzerland).	Recommendation rejected	
124.41	Take effective actions to ensure that women are fully protected from discrimination and violence, including by criminalizing domestic violence against women, adopt legal measures to guarantee full gender equality, and consider withdrawing reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Germany).	Recommendation rejected	With regard to the first part of the recommendation, the State confirms that numerous effective measures have been taken to ensure that women are fully protected; with regard to the second part of the recommendation, at the present time the State is not considering withdrawing its reservations to CEDAW.

No.	Recommendation	State's position	Reasons (if any)
124.42	Adopt specific legislation to criminalize all forms of violence against women (Czech Republic).	Already implemented	
124.43	Criminalize domestic violence and ensure that a broad definition of the crime is applied so as to ensure the protection of all persons concerned, including domestic workers (Belgium).	Already implemented	
124.44	Continue to build the capacity of an independent judiciary that would process court cases more effectively and independently (Canada).	Already implemented	
124.45	Strengthen the judicial framework, including due process, freedom of expression and freedom of association (Australia).	Already implemented	
124.46	Guarantee the exercise of freedom of religion or reach an agreement authorizing the opening of places of worship for people who are neither Muslims nor Christians (France).	Already implemented	
124.47	Respect the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as accepted during the previous UPR cycle, and refrain from imposing any undue restriction on this right, including with regard to the new draft media law (Germany).	Already implemented	
124.48	Implement fully legal guarantees for freedom of expression as stipulated in the Constitution, thus allowing Qatari citizens to exercise their freedom of expression and opinion and enabling independent media in the country (Slovenia).	Already implemented	
124.49	Guarantee freedom of expression by protecting journalists, bloggers and media professionals from arbitrary arrest and detention and from censorship, including by amending those provisions in the Criminal Code and the draft media law that are inconsistent with international standards of freedom of expression (France).	Already implemented	
124.50	Decriminalize defamation as recommended by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Ghana).	Already implemented	
124.51	Refrain from adopting any laws providing for censorship or undue control over the content of the media (Czech Republic).	Already implemented	

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>State's position</i>	<i>Reasons (if any)</i>
124.52	Amend those articles of the draft media law and the draft cybercrime law that are inconsistent with international standards of freedom of expression (Austria).	Already implemented	
124.53	Take immediate measures to ensure that the national regulations pertaining to the Internet guarantee freedom of expression (Sweden).	Already implemented	
124.54	Ensure that the judicial and law enforcement system is not abused to harass individuals for expressing their political or religious views, including on the Internet (Czech Republic).	Already implemented	
124.55	Amend the relevant national legislation, including the Law on Associations and Institutions, to reduce restrictions on procedures for establishing associations (Ireland).	Recommendation rejected	
124.56	Revise Law No. 18 of 2004 in order to remove restricting conditions for acquiring permission for a public demonstration, and take other steps to guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of assembly and the right of association (Czech Republic).	Recommendation rejected	
124.57	Continue efforts to achieve full universal health coverage, including for non-nationals, as part of the National Health Strategy (Thailand).	Under implementation (accepted)	
124.58	Extend the benefits of its health insurance, currently limited to Qataris and citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council countries, to any citizen residing in its territory (Comoros).	Under implementation (accepted)	
124.59	Reform the Labour Code so that it ensures the protection of the labour rights of all workers, including domestic and construction workers, and put in place mechanisms to improve enforcement of the law (Denmark).	Recommendation accepted	
124.60	Revise the labour law to protect the rights of all workers without discrimination and ensure their effective access to justice, in cooperation with ILO (Belgium).	Already implemented	
124.61	Adopt a new Labour Code or amend the existing Code soon, so as to improve the conditions and rights of migrant and foreign workers (Italy).	Recommendation accepted	

No.	Recommendation	State's position	Reasons (if any)
124.62	Take active steps to reform its labour laws in order to improve working conditions for foreign workers, to give female domestic workers the necessary legal protection and to address the recent ruling by ILO on forced labour and freedom of association and collective bargaining (Norway).	Recommendation accepted	
124.63	Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of migrant workers and to protect their interests through taking the requisite institutional and legislative measures (Nepal).	Recommendation accepted	
124.64	Take measures to ensure the access of migrants and non-citizens, especially children, to justice, employment, education, housing and health services (Czech Republic).	Recommendation accepted	
124.65	Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of migrants, particularly those of female domestic workers (Indonesia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.66	Adopt all necessary measures, including legislative measures, in order to apply a policy on migrants with a human rights perspective, in particular with regard to the detention of migrants, especially women and children (Uruguay).	Recommendation accepted	
124.67	Guarantee respect for the rights of migrant workers, in particular by strengthening the capacity of the labour inspectorate, reform the <i>kafala</i> system and ratify ILO Convention No. 189 (France).	Recommendation rejected	
124.68	Consider abolishing the <i>kafala</i> system for all migrant workers and eliminating the exit permit system (Costa Rica).	Recommendation accepted	
124.69	Review the <i>kafala</i> system in order to comply with international standards (Sweden).	Recommendation accepted	
124.70	Establish a timetable for reform of the system of sponsorship-based employment (Brazil).	Recommendation accepted	
124.71	Abolish or reform the restrictive law on sponsorship, which drives potential labour exploitation and human trafficking, strengthen enforcement of the labour law, continue to increase awareness of human rights of migrant workers, and expand legal protections (United States of America).	Recommendation accepted	

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>State's position</i>	<i>Reasons (if any)</i>
124.72	Reform the sponsorship system, removing the requirement for foreign workers to obtain permission before leaving Qatar or moving jobs (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).	Recommendation accepted	
124.73	Abolish the exit visa system for foreign workers (Brazil).	Recommendation accepted	
124.74	Abolish the exit visa system for migrant workers (Ireland).	Recommendation accepted	
124.75	Remove the requirement in the law on sponsorship for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before moving jobs or leaving the country, and ensure that the rights of migrant workers are protected (Australia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.76	Improve the legal protection of migrant workers, apply the provisions of the labour laws that prohibit the retention of passports of migrant workers, strengthen institutional controls for the protection of migrant workers, and remove or amend the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain their sponsor's consent in order to obtain exit visas (Switzerland).	Recommendation accepted	
124.77	Take further urgent steps to address the concerns raised during the session about the recruitment and treatment of foreign workers (Ghana).	Recommendation accepted	
124.78	Abolish the laws on sponsorship and include domestic workers in laws that protect workers (Spain).	Recommendation accepted	
124.79	Ensure that the draft law on domestic workers, which it is hoped will be adopted very soon, is in line with ILO Convention No. 189 (Uruguay).	Already implemented	
124.80	Develop a specific strategy to ensure that domestic workers can file complaints in cases of violence and abuse, without fear of reprisal or harassment (Belgium).	Already implemented	

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>State's position</i>	<i>Reasons (if any)</i>
124.81	Reform labour laws to ensure that domestic workers are legally protected and improve the enforcement of those laws, in order to ensure that the rights of foreign workers in Qatar are guaranteed (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).	Recommendation accepted	
124.82	Adopt legal provisions that guarantee migrant workers the right to join trade unions (Spain).	Recommendation rejected	
124.83	Hold regular meetings of agreed institutional mechanisms to address issues pertaining to migrant workers and ensure dialogue under such arrangements (India).	Recommendation accepted	
124.84	Maintain its commitment to dedicating 0.7 per cent of gross national income to overseas development assistance in order to support economic and social rights in poor countries (Sierra Leone).	Recommendation accepted	

United Nations

A/HRC/27/16



General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 July 2014

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Twenty-seventh session
Agenda item 6
Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Nicaragua

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

GE.14-07068 (E)



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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its nineteenth session from 28 April to 9 May 2014. The review of Nicaragua was held at the 16th meeting, on 7 May 2014. The delegation of Nicaragua was headed by Ana Isabel Morales Mazón, Minister of the Interior. At its 18th meeting, held on 9 May 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Nicaragua.

2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Nicaragua: Gabon, Republic of Korea and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Nicaragua:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/NIC/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/NIC/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/NIC/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Nicaragua through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation recalled that although Nicaragua was the second poorest country in Latin America, the Government was working on the restitution of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights, in compliance with the recommendations made in the first UPR.

6. Significant human rights achievements of Nicaragua since the first review, had been the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and, in 2012, the appointment of the Office of the Procurator for the Defence of Human Rights as the national preventive mechanism under the Protocol. Nicaragua had also ratified the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions No. 169 (1989) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and No. 189 (2011) concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ("Protocol of San Salvador") and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

7. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations had recognized that Nicaragua had reduced the rate of undernourishment in the country from 55.1 to 20.1 per cent between 2010 and 2012. Thus, the first Millennium Development Goal had been met ahead of time. Nicaragua had also succeeded in reducing social inequality from 0.41 to 0.37 per cent as measured by the Gini index. In addition, the United Nations system had considered the "Zero Hunger" programme to be a good practice for reducing extreme poverty. General poverty had been reduced from 48.3 to 42.5 per cent and extreme poverty from 17.2 per cent in 2005 to 8.2 per cent in 2011.

8. Health care had increased significantly between 2007 and 2013: primary care consultations had increased from 8.5 million to 16.7 million, and specialist consultations from 1,351,000 to 3,109,000.

9. The budget for education had grown by 35 per cent since 2006. Preschool and primary education curricula with a bilingual intercultural approach had been designed for indigenous students and students of African descent. In 2013, initial enrolment in preschool education had increased by 11 per cent compared to 2009. The illiteracy rate had diminished from 16.5 per cent in 2006 to 3 per cent in 2013.

10. In 2010, the Law for Older Persons had been adopted and the Social Security Act regulation had been amended to establish a reduced pension for persons over 60 years old who had not been able to make a minimum number of contributions. The scheme had benefited 18,500 senior citizens.

11. In 2014, the Inter-Parliamentary Union had placed Nicaragua in first position on the list of countries with the highest percentage of women in ministerial positions. The World Economic Forum, in its 2013 report, placed Nicaragua in tenth position on the list of countries with better gender equality in public office.

12. Regarding the human rights to water and sanitation, between 2007 and 2010 drinking water coverage had risen from 72 to 84 per cent, while sewerage service had increased from 33 to 39 per cent. The construction of new sewage treatment units had increased by 200 per cent during the previous four and a half years.

13. With regard to the right of indigenous peoples to ancestral lands and property titles, the Government had granted titles in 21 territories representing an area of 36,128.78 km² (30 per cent of the national territory and 52 per cent of the Caribbean coast), benefiting 284 communities, 31,827 families and 190,963 persons, of whom 52 per cent were women.

14. The United Nations Development Programme had acknowledged that Nicaragua had the second lowest homicide rate in Central America and the fourth lowest in Latin America. In addition, Nicaraguan community policing and police work with young people were considered good practices by other countries in Latin America.

15. The Government considered the reduction of overcrowding in prisons as a priority, and had carried out considerable public investment, amounting to 389.1 million córdobas. By October 2013, the prison population had reached 9,601 persons: 87 per cent of them convicted and 13 per cent of them accused persons. That number represented a decrease of 8 per cent since 2010, reflecting a steady reduction in judicial delays. The recidivism rate in 2013 was 11 per cent, the lowest in Central America.

16. The National Coalition against Trafficking in Persons had been strengthened. The Coalition comprised more than 70 public institutions and non-governmental organizations. A shelter for victims of trafficking had been established in Managua, under the protection of the National Police. A new draft law against trafficking in persons was being discussed in the National Assembly. It would strengthen the general rules for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of all forms of trafficking, the protection of witnesses and

victims, and compensation. Since its inception in 2011, Nicaragua had chaired the Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Central America.

17. The head of delegation concluded by expressing the commitment of Nicaragua to working with United Nations bodies to follow up on the new recommendations it would receive during the second review.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 77 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. The United States of America was concerned at, *inter alia*, the changes to the Constitution and Military Code of Nicaragua, the erosion of freedom of expression and excessive use of force by the police. The United States made recommendations.

20. Uruguay highlighted the accession to the conventions on statelessness, the adoption of the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women, the ratification of ILO Convention No. 189 and the increase in women's participation in politics. Uruguay made recommendations.

21. Uzbekistan commended achievements in reducing poverty and social inequalities. It considered that the rights of women and girls, the health system and awareness-raising for law enforcement officers warranted attention. Uzbekistan made recommendations.

22. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the National Human Development Plan, which had reduced poverty and social inequality, and welcomed the likely attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit target. It made recommendations.

23. Viet Nam noted the commitments and progress made by Nicaragua towards economic growth, poverty reduction, employment, social equality and the improvement of living standards for all Nicaraguans through the restoration of their fundamental rights and freedoms. Viet Nam made recommendations.

24. Afghanistan commended the Nicaraguan policy of promoting the restoration of women's rights, and the progress made in the education sector. Afghanistan made recommendations.

25. Algeria welcomed the progress made by Nicaragua since the first review in 2009, especially in the reduction of poverty and extreme poverty, improvement of the quality of life, and economic growth. Algeria made recommendations.

26. Honduras commended efforts towards women's participation; the Equal Rights and Opportunities Act, promoting gender equality; and the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women, criminalizing femicide and gender-based violence. Honduras made recommendations.

27. Argentina commended the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and encouraged accession to other instruments. It emphasized efforts to reduce poverty and legislation protecting older persons. It commended the criminalization of femicide. Argentina made recommendations.

28. Australia welcomed steps taken to address high levels of violence against women and girls, but was concerned that they were unable to access sexual and reproductive health services. Australia was also concerned at reports of abuse committed by police officers, including rape and torture. Australia made recommendations.

29. Austria welcomed the adoption of the national action plan on violence against women. It wanted to know what further measures Nicaragua intended to take regarding the overcrowding in prisons and the hostile environment for human rights defenders and journalists. Austria made recommendations.
30. Azerbaijan commended poverty eradication, the National Human Development Plan and normative and institutional strengthening, and welcomed the accession of Nicaragua to the conventions on statelessness, its laws on gender-based violence and its criminal code reform. Azerbaijan made recommendations.
31. Bangladesh noted the Zero Hunger, Family Garden and Food Production Voucher initiatives and measures to reduce poverty. Many challenges remained, including climate change and natural disasters, and international support should be provided.
32. Portugal welcomed measures to fulfil the human right to education. It remained concerned about the high percentage of disabled children excluded from the school system in Nicaragua. Portugal made recommendations.
33. The Plurinational State of Bolivia commended institutional human rights progress, efforts to eradicate poverty and the attainment of the World Food Summit target on reducing the number of undernourished persons. It made recommendations.
34. Brazil noted the National Human Development Plan and the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women. Criminal code reform had criminalized gender-based violence, but amendments had weakened victim protection. Brazil made recommendations.
35. Canada asked Nicaragua to explain what measures were being taken to guarantee access to justice and protection from gender-based violence. It welcomed the progress made on a number of economic and social rights. Canada made recommendations.
36. Chile noted the National Human Development Plan. It applauded the ratification of ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189. It recalled previous recommendations relating to the rights of women and children. Chile made recommendations.
37. China commended the establishment and implementation of the 2013-2017 National Human Development Plan, progress in health, education and infrastructure construction, and the attention given to protecting the rights of women, children and the elderly. China made recommendations.
38. Costa Rica noted the collaboration with special procedures, and improved health care and education. It expressed concern regarding the conditions for detainees, especially foreigners, which should be improved. It commended the visit of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture. Costa Rica made recommendations.
39. Cuba recognized efforts towards sustained economic growth, poverty reduction, increased good quality employment, reduced social inequality, improved quality of life and protection of women's and children's rights. Cuba made recommendations.
40. The Czech Republic welcomed legislative advances, with particular regard to legislation to combat gender-based violence, which should be better implemented. Freedom of expression was not fully enjoyed. It made recommendations.
41. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended efforts towards sustained economic growth, poverty reduction, more good quality employment, reduced social inequality and an improved quality of life. It made recommendations.
42. Denmark was concerned about the ban on all forms of abortion and reports of rape, torture and abuse of detainees. It commended the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Denmark made recommendations.

43. Ecuador commended the commitment of Nicaragua to human rights, its programmes to eradicate illiteracy and improve education, and its efforts to eradicate poverty through the National Human Development Plan. Ecuador made recommendations.
44. Egypt noted measures taken to ensure citizens' enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and government efforts to address structural, legal, social, cultural and economic challenges. Egypt made recommendations.
45. El Salvador noted compliance with recommendations made previously. It applauded dialogue with human rights actors. It welcomed socioeconomic reforms, which focused on education and sociocultural affairs. It made recommendations.
46. Estonia noted the progress in women's and children's rights. It encouraged the efforts to fight gender-based violence, decriminalize abortion, reduce school dropout and adolescent pregnancy, and protect freedom of expression and opinion. Estonia made recommendations.
47. Ethiopia appreciated measures to strengthen the right to health, through family and community health care, and to protect the rights of women and children. It commended efforts to guarantee access to electricity. Ethiopia made recommendations.
48. Finland welcomed support for the protection of victims of rape or violence, but expressed concern that amendments to the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women weakened victim protection. Finland made recommendations.
49. France welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Nicaragua. France made recommendations.
50. Germany noted criminal code amendments on violence against children, health care and access to education. It expressed concern about obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and deplored the lack of progress in decriminalizing abortion. Germany made recommendations.
51. Ghana noted the improved legal framework, particularly regarding women, persons with disabilities, migrants and persons of African descent. It commended the standing invitations issued to special procedures. Ghana made recommendations.
52. Guatemala welcomed efforts to eradicate poverty and to reduce hunger and insecurity. It shared concerns about poor birth registration, particularly of indigenous children and children of African descent. Guatemala made a recommendation.
53. The Holy See commended institutional strengthening, increased access to education, food, health care, potable water, adequate sewage treatment and housing, and poverty reduction efforts. It encouraged wider participation in decision-making. It made recommendations.
54. Angola applauded efforts to improve human rights and to increase women's participation in politics, expressing concern about gender inequality, especially among indigenous women and in rural areas. Angola made a recommendation.
55. Hungary welcomed human rights training for public officials but was concerned about human rights violations by police authorities. It deplored legislative amendments weakening protection for women victims of violence. Hungary made recommendations.
56. India commended poverty reduction through the Zero Hunger programme and measures to guarantee access to health care and education. It welcomed the adoption of the Act on Public Information. India made recommendations.

57. Indonesia noted the reduction in poverty and malnutrition, and the improvement in health care. It commended the increased school retention rate but believed further progress could be made. Indonesia made recommendations.
58. Ireland commended the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women but was concerned about amendments regarding mediation between victims and aggressors. It was also concerned about threats against journalists. Ireland made recommendations.
59. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted the Government's objectives, including economic growth, poverty reduction and reduced social inequality. It noted prioritization of women and children. The Islamic Republic of Iran made recommendations.
60. Israel was concerned that Nicaragua had nine reports outstanding to various treaty bodies, some of which were six years overdue. Israel made recommendations.
61. Italy recognized progress in reducing poverty and malnutrition, and on women and indigenous peoples' rights. It noted widespread child labour. It asked about actions addressing prison conditions and detainees' rights. Italy made recommendations.
62. Answering some of the remarks delivered during the interactive dialogue and to questions sent in advance regarding abortion, the delegation of Nicaragua stated that legislation on the matter had been adopted by a majority vote in the National Assembly and was supported by public opinion. Under a Ministry of Health protocol, health professionals were required to provide medical treatment when the life of the mother was in danger. The national strategy on sexual and reproductive health provided for obstetric services throughout pregnancy and assistance was guaranteed in obstetric emergencies.
63. Nicaragua maintained its position not to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Court had not demonstrated sufficient impartiality. Amnesties carried out by Nicaragua had not excluded any type of offence, and crimes falling under the scope of the Court were categorized in the Nicaraguan Criminal Code.
64. A feasibility study was currently being conducted of the Interoceanic Grand Canal project, construction of which would begin in 2015. The Canal would enable Nicaragua to improve the well-being of its population and provide a model of sustainable growth.
65. Human rights violations by police officers were dealt with by the competent courts, and were punished. In addition, the National Police disciplinary regulations had been updated, to better apply and widen the disciplinary system; and internal specialized human rights structures had been strengthened.
66. Human rights training was mandatory for new police and prison officers, and was included in continuing professional development programmes for existing officers.
67. Nicaragua had welcomed a visit from the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, to evaluate compliance with human rights obligations. Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture had led to the creation of the national preventive mechanism against torture, which carried out regular visits to detention centres, holding cells and migrants' shelters, and submitted reports and recommendations to the competent authorities.
68. Lithuania commended efforts to protect women rights and to reduce gender-based violence. It remained concerned about the restrictions on the enjoyment of freedom of expression, of assembly and of association. Lithuania made recommendations.
69. Luxembourg welcomed the commitment of Nicaragua to improving social services for the poorest, but expressed concern at the persistence of physical and sexual violence against women and girls, despite the efforts undertaken by the authorities. It made recommendations.

70. Malaysia noted that Nicaragua had met the World Food Summit goal of reducing the number of undernourished persons. It encouraged Nicaragua to continue its efforts to combat poverty. Malaysia made recommendations.
71. Mexico commended efforts to combat poverty and investment initiatives in clean energies. It hoped that the UPR would help Nicaragua to overcome human rights challenges. Mexico made recommendations.
72. Montenegro wished to discuss the results achieved in the implementation of the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women and of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Montenegro made recommendations.
73. Morocco praised the efforts of Nicaragua to pursue sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction, as well as its fight against malnutrition and illiteracy. Morocco noted the importance of the adoption of the National Plan for Youth Employment. Morocco made recommendations.
74. The Netherlands was concerned about gender-based violence. Noting that abortion was criminalized, it expressed concern at the violation of the sexual and reproductive rights of women in Nicaragua. It made recommendations.
75. Nigeria welcomed efforts towards poverty eradication and programmes to increase the availability of food. It urged Nicaragua to ensure gender balance, fundamental rights and basic freedoms for its citizens. Nigeria made recommendations.
76. Norway congratulated Nicaragua on the ratification of ILO Convention No. 169 and increased respect for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. It expressed concern at violence against women and the criminalization of abortion. Norway made recommendations.
77. Pakistan appreciated the efforts to reduce extreme poverty, improvement of socioeconomic indicators, adoption of the 2013-2017 National Human Development Plan and progress in access to education and the provision of health services. Pakistan made recommendations.
78. Paraguay welcomed the National Human Development Plan and commended the fact that the Nicaraguan Institute for Women had been raised to ministerial status. It noted the criminalization of femicide. Paraguay made recommendations.
79. Peru noted progress, including ratification of the Convention against Torture, adoption of legislation on persons with disabilities and on gender-based violence, and criminalization of femicide in the Criminal Code. Peru made recommendations.
80. The Philippines noted the adoption of laws on human trafficking. It appreciated measures to combat poverty and unemployment, and action to safeguard human rights against the impact of climate change. It made recommendations.
81. Poland appreciated the efforts to protect women and children. It encouraged Nicaragua to maximize its efforts to provide a conducive environment for civil society. Poland made recommendations.
82. Belgium welcomed the significant decrease in the number of people suffering from hunger. However, it remained concerned at issues relating to the rights of women and children and the situation of human rights defenders. Belgium made recommendations.
83. The Republic of Korea appreciated the efforts to improve people's living standards and access to education, and to eradicate violence against women. It wanted Nicaragua to improve people's civil and political rights. It made recommendations.

84. Romania acknowledged positive developments in Nicaragua since the previous UPR cycle, such as improvements in the registration of births. Romania made a recommendation.
85. The Russian Federation noted progress in the areas of citizens' social and economic rights, including the fight against extreme poverty and malnutrition, overcoming illiteracy and access to potable water, health and education. It made recommendations.
86. Sierra Leone noted that Nicaragua was a party to most of the core international human rights treaties. It praised the ongoing revision of the national Constitution, and the Strategic Plan against Trafficking in Persons. It made recommendations.
87. Singapore noted the progress made in reducing infant and maternal mortality rates since the last UPR. It praised the increase in the retention rate in primary schools and in enrolment in secondary schools. Singapore made recommendations.
88. Slovakia welcomed the level of representation of women in public life, but noted the persistence of violence against women. It asked about the measures envisaged by the Government to address sexual abuse of girls effectively. Slovakia made recommendations.
89. Slovenia stressed that amendments to the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women weakened protection for women victims of violence. It noted that abortion was outlawed under all circumstances and that journalists were still subject to threat and harassment. Slovenia made recommendations.
90. Spain congratulated Nicaragua on being a party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and on its commitment in that area. Spain recognized progress in the fight against discrimination and violence against women. It made recommendations.
91. Sri Lanka recognized the efforts to address poverty and social inequality. It welcomed progress in education, including a reduction in illiteracy, and efforts to promote gender equality. Sri Lanka made recommendations.
92. The State of Palestine noted the implementation of the central information system for children and adolescents and welcomed the adoption of the National Human Development Plan. It made recommendations.
93. Sweden considered that the criminalization of abortion endangered women and conflicted with international human rights instruments. It questioned the independence of the judiciary and the quality of the courts' decisions. Sweden made recommendations.
94. Switzerland praised the adoption of the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women. However, it raised the issue of impunity and the challenges faced by victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence to gain access to judicial procedures. Switzerland made recommendations.
95. The Syrian Arab Republic noted developments in human rights legislation, and achievements regarding access to education and reduction in illiteracy. It commended the comprehensive family care system. It made a recommendation.
96. Thailand acknowledged efforts to enhance gender equality, resulting in more women in managerial positions. It welcomed improvements in legislation concerning vulnerable groups, and plans for prison expansion. Thailand made recommendations.
97. Trinidad and Tobago complimented Nicaragua on its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty pursuant to Millennium Development Goal 1. Trinidad and Tobago noted the steady growth of the Nicaraguan economy following the financial crisis. It made recommendations.

98. Tunisia noted the improvement of the legislative and normative framework and the efforts to eradicate poverty and violence against women. It encouraged Nicaragua to fight discrimination against indigenous peoples. Tunisia made recommendations.

99. Ukraine was concerned about child labour and discrimination, children's right to education, racial discrimination, gender-based violence and the human rights of prisoners and detainees. Ukraine made recommendations.

100. The United Arab Emirates appreciated the improved health care and newly built hospitals. It welcomed the data on modern medical treatment. It urged Nicaragua to promote the right to health and include older persons.

101. The United Kingdom encouraged Nicaragua to raise awareness of abuse against vulnerable groups, and legislate on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. It made recommendations.

102. Concerning child labour, the delegation of Nicaragua emphasized the actions undertaken to transform the problem into a social welfare model for children. The "Love Programme" was currently being implemented with the aim of restoring the right of children to live in normal conditions and grow up with their families, and creating child development centres for the professional care of working mothers' children, as well as ensuring the right to be registered, the right to specialized care for children and adolescents with disabilities, the rights of children of Nicaraguans who had migrated or were deprived of liberty, and the right of children to grow up without having to work. During the period 2011-2013, 568,208 families had been supported and 187,721 children under 6 had been assisted. Likewise, in the period 2010-2013, an annual average of 18,103 children and adolescent workers had been integrated into the school system.

103. On the issue of disability, the delegation indicated that the Government had achieved the modernization of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, eliminating the welfare approach of previous legislation. The country was making an effort to provide inclusive education and was also working on the establishment of the Office of People with Disabilities within the Office of Citizen Power with the participation of organizations working in the area of disability.

104. With regard to the situation of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, the delegation remarked that the Criminal Code did not criminalize the concept of hate, but instead criminalized discrimination. Discrimination based on sexual orientation was considered an aggravating circumstance. In Nicaragua, very few cases involving deaths of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people had occurred and none of them had been considered hate crimes. The perpetrators in those cases had been prosecuted in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code. No defender of the rights of sexual diversity had ever been disturbed in the exercise of his or her work.

105. The Special Prosecutor for the Right to Sexual Diversity ran a five-year training strategy on the right to sexual diversity for government officials, mainly members of the National Police, the judiciary and the Ministry of Education.

106. The delegation emphasized that the rights of women and fighting violence against women were priorities for the Government. The State had taken a number of actions ranging from prevention, protection and care for victims, to the criminalization of new violent behaviour against women that had not previously been criminalized. Comprehensive Act No. 779 on Violence against Women and amendments to Law No. 641 on the Criminal Code were being fully implemented. Act No. 779 criminalized femicide and other forms of violence against women.

107. To bring it into line with international standards, Act No. 779 had been amended to incorporate the principle of opportunity established in the Criminal Procedure Code.

Consequently, a mediation process had been established, but its application was narrowly limited to the safeguard and protection of victims and it did not automatically replace any judicial process. Mediation was applicable only in cases of less serious offences, and it was not obligatory. There were other limitations in the application of mediation, such as the need for the victim's consent. The perpetrator could only have access to that procedure once in his life, and must not have any criminal record for offences defined in Law No. 779.

108. The Government had also launched a Comprehensive Women Support Model, the result of which had been the establishment of a police station for women and children in each of the 153 existing municipalities.

109. Concerning human rights defenders and journalists, the delegation observed that the right to freedom of expression and association was guaranteed, as evidenced by the presence of 6,014 non-governmental organizations in the country and the 12 per cent increase in trade unions and 196 per cent increase in cooperatives, compared to 2009. Similarly, there was neither media censorship nor any persecution of human rights defenders, journalists or the media. In 2013 and so far in 2014, the national police had received only seven complaints of acts committed against journalists, six of which had been sent to the competent judicial authority.

110. The delegation reiterated the State's willingness not to leave unpunished any act against the rights of the person, especially against the right to freedom of expression, as well as against human rights defenders. The delegation invited those affected to use the mechanisms established in domestic law so that such acts did not go unpunished.

111. In relation to some concerns about the electoral process, the delegation underlined that Nicaragua guaranteed the full exercise of democracy and the Nicaraguan people had a long tradition of participating in electoral processes. In the latest presidential election, the current President had won with 62.46 per cent of the vote, which highlighted the people's confidence in their elections. In May 2014, elections had been held for regional councils in the autonomous regions, in which political organizations with 768 candidates representing different ethnic groups (Creoles, Garifuna, Mestizos, Miskitos, Rama and Sumo) had participated; both men and women under the principle of fairness and proportionality established by the electoral law.

112. Regarding the independence of State powers, in April 2014 the National Assembly had elected with a large majority the public officials of the three powers of the State, who had previously been proposed by the integrated political forces in the National Assembly.

113. The head of the delegation expressed her deep gratitude for the recommendations and comments made by all States, which would be carefully considered by Nicaragua.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

114. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Nicaragua and enjoy the support of Nicaragua:

114.1. Consider the ratification of human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));

114.2. Criminalize the sale of children (Mexico);

** Conclusions and recommendations will not be edited.

- 114.3. Further its endeavours with regard to the strengthening of the normative and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights (Azerbaijan);
- 114.4. Continue to strengthen the legal system with new bodies (Egypt);
- 114.5. Continue its efforts to strengthen the institutional and legal framework for human rights protection (Uzbekistan);
- 114.6. Strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Human Rights Advocate (Ethiopia);
- 114.7. Continue to strengthen measures to ensure independence of the Office of the Human Rights Advocate (India);
- 114.8. Further strengthen and support the independence and impartiality of the Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos and ensure that it fully adheres to the Paris Principles (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 114.9. Establish a Human Rights Inter-Institutional Body to allow better coordination and articulation of policies, plans and programmes from the Executive Branch aimed at improving the mechanisms for promotion and protection of human rights (Paraguay);
- 114.10. Establish a State institution responsible for policy development, follow-up and coordination of actions in the area of human rights (Peru);
- 114.11. Continue the efforts in order to mainstream the issue of human rights protection in its national development plan (Ecuador);
- 114.12. Continue promoting its vocation for peace, cooperation and international solidarity, in favour of the sustainable development of our peoples (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 114.13. Continue its renewed efforts and commitments to lead Nicaragua towards good living, prosperity and happiness, through the paths of reconciliation and national unity, equality, solidarity, sustainable development and further promotion and protection of human rights (Viet Nam);
- 114.14. Continue strengthening the security and peace of the people, institutionalizing the leading participation of the person, the family and the organized community, both in the territory and in social and productive sectors (Cuba);
- 114.15. Continue implementing the model of seeking consensus and shared responsibility for good living (Cuba);
- 114.16. Consider implementing a model of consensus-seeking and shared responsibility for good living (Egypt);
- 114.17. Continue to develop national strategies and programmes to protect vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities and elderly people (Russian Federation);
- 114.18. Further promote the collective rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, people belonging to ethnic and religious groups, and persons living with HIV/AIDS, and promote tolerance and mutual respect for all, including by developing a mechanism to this end (Thailand);

- 114.19. Strengthen its good governance and reform process of its judicial system and national mechanism for human rights, with more focus on employment, social welfare, education and health care, especially for families in rural areas and vulnerable groups of women, children and persons with difficulties (Viet Nam);
- 114.20. Allocate more resources to the policies in favour of children (Algeria);
- 114.21. Continue actions for the promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other persons working in the rural areas (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 114.22. Remain engaged with the international community in encouraging collective action on the issue of human rights and climate change (Philippines);
- 114.23. Share its best practices in the field of human rights (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 114.24. Submit its overdue initial reports to the Committee on Migrant Workers and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ghana);
- 114.25. Cooperate with the human rights protection bodies through the submission of its due reports to all treaty bodies (Israel);
- 114.26. Cooperate with special procedures mandate-holders by accepting the visit request made by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Israel);
- 114.27. Continue its efforts to empower women (Afghanistan);
- 114.28. Step up efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, including against rural and indigenous women, improve women's access to education and guarantee their right to health, including the sexual and reproductive rights (Czech Republic);
- 114.29. Take appropriate measures for a better integration of indigenous women within society (Angola);
- 114.30. Take further necessary measures to increase the percentage of women in decision-making positions (Afghanistan);
- 114.31. Further strengthen efforts to ensure equal participation of men and women in elected office (Egypt);
- 114.32. Continue its efforts aimed at ensuring respect for, and eradication of discrimination against, indigenous peoples and persons of African descent, in particular women and girls (El Salvador);
- 114.33. Continue the fight against all discrimination, in particular discrimination targeting persons belonging to indigenous peoples living in the two Atlantic regions of the country (France);
- 114.34. Continue with the measures aimed at combating stereotypes and discrimination suffered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Argentina);
- 114.35. Bring conditions of detention in line with international standards, in particular to reduce overcrowding and promote non-custodial measures (Austria);

- 114.36. Continue the improvement of the conditions of detention in jails, in particular by fighting prison overcrowding (France);
- 114.37. Continue to improve the conditions of persons deprived of liberty and expand the prison infrastructure in order to reduce overcrowding and improve detainees' living conditions (Republic of Korea);
- 114.38. Consider adopting the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, known as the Bangkok Rules, to respond to specific needs of female inmates (Thailand);
- 114.39. Continue to implement provisions contained in the Family Code and the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women (Russian Federation);
- 114.40. Strengthen the actions which ensure the effective implementation of legislation on special protection for women victims of violence (Argentina);
- 114.41. Expand the legislation in order to protect women against all forms of violence and ensure that gender-based violence does not lead to impunity (Netherlands);
- 114.42. Revise its legislation on violence against women in order to strengthen the rights of victims and to fight the impunity of perpetrators (Luxembourg);
- 114.43. Fully implement without further delay Act 779 on violence against women (Austria);
- 114.44. Ensure full compatibility of all provisions of Act 779 with its international obligations and allocate the necessary budget to allow for its proper and prompt implementation (Hungary);
- 114.45. Monitor the implementation of Act 779 and provide instruction on the dynamics of violence against women to all persons participating in the mediation processes envisaged under the Act, in order to ensure the full protection of the rights of women (Ireland);
- 114.46. Ensure that all reports of violence are thoroughly investigated and that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Lithuania);
- 114.47. Provide the necessary assistance to the victims of violence, including through adoption of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes (Lithuania);
- 114.48. Implement, as early as possible, a witness protection programme for women victims of all forms of violence (Brazil);
- 114.49. Establish sustainable and effective centres where women whose rights have been violated and who have been victims of abuse and violence can go and find support (Estonia);
- 114.50. Strengthen measures combating all forms of violence against women and children, especially through the reinforcement of the legal framework in this field (Algeria);
- 114.51. Continue its efforts to implement legal protection measures for women-victims of all forms of violence by establishing a witness protection programme as it will increase their access to justice and their protection (Poland);

- 114.52. Continue its policies to combat violence against women and take further steps to promote their access to justice (Sri Lanka);
- 114.53. Ensure protection of women and girls from all forms of violence, including sexual violence (Ukraine);
- 114.54. Strengthen the implementation of effective programmes for the protection and rehabilitation of, and comprehensive attention to, victims of trafficking (Chile);
- 114.55. Continue monitoring and fighting the trafficking of persons and therefore renew the National Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (Holy See);
- 114.56. Ensure that appropriate resources are provided for the full implementation of laws and programmes to combat trafficking of women and children (Philippines);
- 114.57. Prevent domestic and gender violence and child abuse, including through public awareness-raising programmes on child abuse and in particular on sexual abuse (Honduras);
- 114.58. Formulate a national plan to combat violence against children, including corporal punishment and sexual abuse, which includes considerations on prevention, care and reparation (Honduras);
- 114.59. Formulate a national plan to address violence against children that will include aspects of prevention, care and reparations as well as launch public awareness programmes on child abuse (Poland);
- 114.60. Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home and detention facilities (Austria);
- 114.61. Deploy further efforts in order to eradicate child labour, so as to better ensure full enjoyment of the rights of every child (Italy);
- 114.62. Undertake steps to strengthen mechanisms to prevent child labour (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 114.63. Step up efforts to eliminate hazardous work conditions for children working in the agricultural sector (Ukraine);
- 114.64. Take all necessary measures to ensure separation of powers and due independence of the judiciary to secure the right to free and fair judicial processes (Canada);
- 114.65. Take concrete measures aiming at improving the access of women and children to justice (Switzerland);
- 114.66. Ensure effective participation and access to justice, emphasizing the regional priority granted to the combat of violence against women (Chile);
- 114.67. Continue efforts to strengthen its juvenile justice system through, inter alia, considering the incorporation of the restorative justice principle (Indonesia);
- 114.68. Speed up the adoption of the family law and take the necessary measures for its enforcement (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 114.69. Take steps to further strengthen the framework for the protection of family rights, including early adoption and implementation of the Family Code (Pakistan);

- 114.70. Continue working towards the adoption of the new civil registration law in the country (Guatemala);
- 114.71. Enact legislation that guarantees that all children are registered at birth and are provided with appropriate birth certificates (Holy See);
- 114.72. Develop an awareness-raising campaign in the rural, indigenous and Afro-descendant areas with the view of increasing the birth registration of these vulnerable groups (Mexico);
- 114.73. Facilitate birth registration and provide easy registration procedures for indigenous children and children of African descent (Sierra Leone);
- 114.74. Revise its legislation related to the birth registration to ensure birth registration to all indigenous children and children of African descent (Tunisia);
- 114.75. Raise the minimum age for marriage to 18 years and improve maternal and neonatal health services, especially in rural areas and among indigenous people (Holy See);
- 114.76. Ensure that the issue of early child marriage is addressed promptly, inter alia by making the minimum age for marriage equal for girls and boys (Montenegro);
- 114.77. Raise the minimum age for marriage for both boys and girls to 18 (Sierra Leone);
- 114.78. Continue developing efforts to guarantee the full exercise of the right to freedom of information and expression, promoting the independence and pluralism of the media, and develop awareness programmes about the importance of this human right (Uruguay);
- 114.79. Guarantee freedom of expression and information through the independence and pluralism of the media and guarantee freedom of association (France);
- 114.80. Promote the independence and pluralism of the media, mindful that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right (Israel);
- 114.81. Create and ensure an enabling environment for free and independent media (Lithuania);
- 114.82. Promote efforts to ensure that the right to freedom of expression can be fully exercised and that all violations against human rights defenders and journalists are effectively investigated and prosecuted (Norway);
- 114.83. Further promote freedom of expression and the independence of the media (Sierra Leone);
- 114.84. Guarantee a safe and enabling environment for journalists and human rights defenders and ensure that all cases of attacks against them are investigated by independent and impartial bodies (Austria);
- 114.85. Take all necessary measures for the protection of journalists and human rights defenders, in particular through the prosecution of the authors of intimidation or violence against them, and by ensuring the independence of their actions (France);

- 114.86. Ensure that members of the political opposition, civil society organizations as well as journalists are free to express their views and opinions, including guarantees for their rights to freedom of assembly (Germany);
- 114.87. Investigate all allegations of threats and harassment against journalists and bring the perpetrators to justice (Ireland);
- 114.88. Ensure that the rights of human rights defenders are respected and ensure that the judicial authorities carry out thorough and impartial investigations with respect to threats, intimidation and violence against human rights defenders (Belgium);
- 114.89. Avoid any obstacle to the work exercised by individuals and institutions protecting human rights in Nicaragua (Spain);
- 114.90. Comply with the recommendation accepted in 2010, but not yet implemented, to establish an "Observatory on Human Rights Defenders" in collaboration with organizations that defend human rights in the country (Spain);
- 114.91. Guarantee the right to freedom of assembly and of association in accordance with international obligations (Lithuania);
- 114.92. Continue ensuring that cases where police officers are accused of failing to protect peaceful protestors are promptly and fully investigated, and those responsible are brought to justice (Lithuania);
- 114.93. Implement fully the bill on access to information and take effective measures to protect freedom of the press by investigating all reported incidents of intimidation or harassment of journalists (Canada);
- 114.94. Redouble efforts to promote the full exercise of the right to information and freedom of expression and promote, likewise, the independence and pluralism of the media (Costa Rica);
- 114.95. Continue its efforts to promote the full exercise of the right to freedom of information and expression (India);
- 114.96. Expand programmes for the promotion of employment, and food assistance activities for vulnerable populations in the framework of the fight against poverty and social inequality (Uzbekistan);
- 114.97. Continue promoting the sound social policies implemented to eradicate poverty and inequality (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 114.98. Continue guaranteeing the provision of health, food and social protection services in favour of the Nicaraguan people (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 114.99. Further improve economic and social indicators, in particular in the sectors of drinking water, education, health and social housing (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 114.100. Increase the level of investment in education and social and cultural affairs in rural areas to ensure an equal provision of all services, in particular to disadvantaged groups such as women and indigenous children (El Salvador);
- 114.101. Continue its activities in the field of poverty eradication (Azerbaijan);
- 114.102. Continue to step up poverty reduction efforts to improve the people's living standards (China);

- 114.103. Make continued efforts to eradicate poverty and extreme poverty (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 114.104. Continue implementing policies and programmes aimed at combating poverty (Ecuador);
- 114.105. Continue efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and strengthen the right to health through the community health-care model (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 114.106. Continue to raise efforts pointed at eradicating poverty; and ensure strict implementation of the National Human Development Plan 2013-2017 (Nigeria);
- 114.107. Continue with its efforts for the improvement of social-economic indicators through elimination of poverty and provision of better employment opportunities for its citizens (Pakistan);
- 114.108. Further strengthen measures to combat poverty, while paying particular attention to persons belonging to vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly and people in rural areas (Sri Lanka);
- 114.109. Continue monitoring the guarantee of the exercise of the human right to drinking water and sanitation, respecting the principle of non-discrimination, granting specific attention to rural communities and vulnerable groups, and supporting the committees for drinking water and sanitation as well as the municipal governments (Spain);
- 114.110. Continue its efforts to ensure school attendance and for the provision of housing, food and health services to vulnerable children (State of Palestine);
- 114.111. Continue improving access to adequate food for the population in extreme poverty, especially in rural areas (State of Palestine);
- 114.112. Continue to improve access to food, especially in rural areas, for persons living in extreme poverty (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 114.113. Improve health care (Nigeria);
- 114.114. Continue its efforts to strengthen the right to health at the national level and extend this right to vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and old persons (United Arab Emirates);
- 114.115. Continue to improve the national healthcare system and ensure access to quality healthcare for all (Singapore);
- 114.116. Continue to build the capacity of health and social services to provide care to children with disabilities (Egypt);
- 114.117. Promote the capacity of social and health services so that they can provide care to children with disabilities (Israel);
- 114.118. Continue its efforts to build the capacities of the health and social services sectors with the aim of providing necessary care for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities (Malaysia);
- 114.119. Continue its efforts to expand the coverage of and access to basic health services (India);
- 114.120. Continue efforts to provide comprehensive health care to all people in Nicaragua, including through improving access and services in rural areas,

with the aim, inter alia, to close the gap between the infant mortality rate in rural and urban areas (Indonesia);

114.121. Intensify efforts to improve maternal and child health in the country (Ethiopia);

114.122. Provide universal access to safe and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and examine the link between gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive rights (Australia);

114.123. Ensure that adequate information on family planning and the regulation of fertility is publicly available (Finland);

114.124. Prioritize education for all (Nigeria);

114.125. Continue strengthening its sensible education programmes, as a key element for the development of the country (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));

114.126. Continue the measures aimed at the improvement of the quality of education and of health services (Algeria);

114.127. Take further measures to ensure the effective implementation of measures to fulfil the human right to education (Portugal);

114.128. Continue to improve its education system and ensure access to quality education for all (Singapore);

114.129. Address the questions of pre-school coverage, drop-out rates, as well as violence and discrimination in schools (Portugal);

114.130. Ensure that the education system is fully equipped to implement an inclusive education policy (Portugal);

114.131. Continue to increase investments in education to improve the enrolment rate (China);

114.132. Continue its endeavour to increase the national general budget for education, in order to guarantee the right to quality education for children (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

114.133. Step up its measures in the area of promoting the right to education by continuing efforts aimed at improving the quality of education and increasing the coverage of secondary and technical education (Malaysia);

114.134. Continue its efforts, particularly in education, in pursuing policies supporting disadvantaged populations, ensuring school attendance of all children and reducing school dropout rates among adolescents (Luxembourg);

114.135. Take appropriate measures in the field of education, in particular to combat illiteracy (Mexico);

114.136. Consider specific measures to strengthen secondary school retention (Morocco);

114.137. Continue to increase education quality and participation as a means to combat poverty and child labour (Norway);

114.138. Continue to intensify government action in providing better infrastructure for education (Philippines);

- 114.139. Promote human rights education through public awareness campaigns in partnership with the Office of the Human Rights Defender and academic institutions (Morocco);
- 114.140. Carry out proper actions aimed at granting indigenous people the full enjoyment of their rights, in particular health care and education (Italy);
- 114.141. Ensure the best interests of indigenous people in carrying out large-scale national development projects (Republic of Korea);
- 114.142. Enhance cooperation and involvement of indigenous peoples in decision-making and take measures to encourage their participation in public and political life (Estonia);
- 114.143. Continue harmonizing its national legislation with the obligations under ILO Convention No. 169, particularly with respect to the prior consultation of indigenous peoples (Peru);
- 114.144. Continue the efforts aimed at dealing with mixed migration flows and implement appropriate identification mechanisms and other measures deriving from them in order to respond to the special needs of all persons in need of protection and support (El Salvador).
115. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Nicaragua, which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:
- 115.1. Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Tunisia);
- 115.2. Effectively enforce labour laws with appropriate penalties for violations, and ensure that all citizens have access to government services, regardless of political affiliation (United States of America);
- 115.3. Establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ghana);
- 115.4. Create an environment conducive to free, fair and inclusive elections, including by ensuring the neutrality, independence and professionalism of the Supreme Electoral Council (Czech Republic);
- 115.5. Look to ensure the continued separation of party and State, to allow adequate transparency and space for further democratic growth, including the impartial functioning of the Supreme Electoral Council in line with recommendations made by regional and international institutions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 115.6. Take further urgent steps to eradicate de facto discrimination reportedly suffered by various groups, including peoples of African descent in rural and remote areas of the country (Ghana);
- 115.7. Ensure that constitutional protections for freedom of expression, including press freedom, are upheld; and refrain from using administrative, judicial and financial means to unduly restrict the exercise of this right (United States of America);
- 115.8. Protect the rights to freedom of expression and assembly and ensure all abuses allegedly committed by police are transparently investigated (Australia).

116. The following recommendations will be examined by Nicaragua, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2014:

116.1. Take necessary measures in order to ratify core international human rights instruments, such as the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Romania);

116.2. Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearance, in conformity with articles 31 and 32 (Uruguay);

116.3. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Lithuania) (Tunisia);

116.4. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal);

116.5. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child relating to individual complaints (Ghana);

116.6. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);

116.7. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);

116.8. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Brazil) (Czech Republic) (Norway) (Paraguay) (Sweden) (Switzerland) (Austria);

116.9. Standardize the definition of torture at the national level in compliance with the Convention against Torture (Mexico);

116.10. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Slovenia);

116.11. Ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Honduras);

116.12. Continue making efforts to align its legislation with the obligations emanating from the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (El Salvador);

116.13. Establish policies to reduce the level of discrimination against women, children and indigenous peoples of African descent (Trinidad and Tobago);

116.14. Continue the increased respect of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and ensure the approval of an inclusive Family Code respectful of the right to gender identity and sexual orientation (Norway);

- 116.15. Rephrase its definition of torture in national legislation by aligning it with the Convention against Torture and ensure that the new definition comprehends all elements of torture (Denmark);
- 116.16. Ensure prompt thorough, independent and transparent investigations into all allegations of rape, torture or other ill-treatment by law enforcement officials, hold those responsible to account and provide reparations and redress to the victims (Hungary);
- 116.17. Take steps to strengthen the judiciary, by increasing its independence and ensuring compliance with selection and appointment procedures in competitive examinations and working with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (Germany);
- 116.18. Ensure a policy of appointments in the judiciary independent from political interference, and a scrupulous respect for deadlines for their renewal (Spain);
- 116.19. Institute appropriate reforms to ensure full impartiality of the judiciary and the separation and independence of powers in accordance with international standards (Sweden);
- 116.20. Ensure the full protection of the freedom of expression of its citizens, including the right to peaceful protest, and refrain from and condemn actions intended to intimidate or repress citizens exercising their rights (Canada);
- 116.21. Fully guarantee respect for freedom of expression and opinion and fully comply with its commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular articles 19 and 22 (Slovenia);
- 116.22. Decriminalize defamation (Ghana);
- 116.23. Establish an institutional structure that guarantees the right of access to public information (Israel);
- 116.24. Review its legislation to ensure respect of the reproductive rights of women and girls (Belgium);
- 116.25. Ensure that the education system has all means to implement an inclusive education policy, since a high percentage of children with disabilities is currently excluded from the school system (Israel);
- 116.26. Involve indigenous communities in any decision related to the management of their ancestral territories (Italy).
117. Nicaragua considers that the following recommendations cannot be accepted and would thus be noted:
- 117.1. Reassess the possibility of signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Mexico);
- 117.2. Consider acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Uruguay);
- 117.3. Take steps to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 117.4. Promptly accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it in national law (Lithuania);
- 117.5. Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Estonia);

- 117.6. Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it fully at the national level, and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Slovakia);
- 117.7. Accede to and fully align the national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the Court in investigations and prosecutions, and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Sweden);
- 117.8. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Australia) (Costa Rica) (Portugal) (Ghana) (Montenegro) (Austria) (Honduras) (Tunisia);
- 117.9. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as recommended previously (Chile);
- 117.10. Ratify the Rome Statute on the creation of the International Criminal Court as well as the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);
- 117.11. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Switzerland);
- 117.12. Investigate credible allegations of human rights violations by security forces and prosecute, as appropriate, parties responsible in accordance with its international obligations and commitments (United States of America);
- 117.13. Take effective, predominantly legislative steps to protect the rights of persons deprived of their liberty (Ukraine);
- 117.14. Repeal amendments to Act 779 and urgently address the high levels of violence against women and girls (Australia);
- 117.15. Reverse the amendments weakening the protection provided under the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women (Lithuania);
- 117.16. Review and amend the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women (Act 779) to comply with international standards and ensure its effective implementation (Slovakia);
- 117.17. Remedy the measure which resulted in weakening the protection afforded by the Comprehensive Act against Violence towards Women (Act 779) and avoid putting women in a situation where they must negotiate with their abusers (Belgium);
- 117.18. Promote actively plurality of the media, hold perpetrators of attacks against journalists accountable, and decriminalize defamation (Czech Republic);
- 117.19. Take measures to guarantee the full and effective recognition of sexual and reproductive rights, especially through the decriminalization of abortion (France);
- 117.20. Consider the possibility of contemplating exceptions to the general prohibition of abortion, especially in cases of therapeutic abortion when the mother's life is in danger as well as in cases of pregnancies resulting from rape or incest (Uruguay);

117.21. Launch public discussions on the eventuality of abortion in cases where a woman's health or life is at risk if she continues with the pregnancy, and, as a next step, decriminalize abortion (Czech Republic);

117.22. Modify the penal code in order to restore access to legal and safe therapeutic abortion and the right for the victims of sexual abuse to a legal, safe and unconditioned abortion (Denmark);

117.23. Repeal its current legislation that criminalizes the termination of pregnancies in all circumstances, including in cases of rape, incest and situations where the life of the mother is at risk (Finland);

117.24. Revise legislation to decriminalize abortion in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest and in cases where the life or health of the mother is at risk, as recommended previously (Germany);

117.25. Overhaul fundamentally legislation on abortion, in the first place with regard to victims of rape, especially victims that are minors, as well as concerning pregnancies which seriously endanger the health of the woman (Luxembourg);

117.26. Decriminalize abortion in cases of incest and rape and in cases in which the life or physical integrity of women and adolescents is endangered (Netherlands);

117.27. Decriminalize abortion, and ensure that girls and women are not subject to reprisals for seeking an abortion under any circumstances (Norway);

117.28. Revise its legislation on abortion in order to enable it when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest, or when it endangers the life or health of the mother (Belgium);

117.29. Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and ensure that safe and legal abortion services are available for those women and girls whose pregnancy is a result of rape or whose lives or health are put at risk (Slovenia);

117.30. Consider amending the legislation on abortion in order to, as a first step, take into account situations where pregnancy is the result of sexual aggression or incest or when the pregnant woman is in danger, and assure women of their rights to safe medical and reproductive health care (Sweden);

117.31. Temper the law banning therapeutic abortion, or even reintroduce the law repealed in 2006, guaranteeing free choice for women victims of rape or whose health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy (Switzerland).

118. Concerning recommendations 117.10 and 117.11, put forward by France and Switzerland respectively, Nicaragua would have preferred that they be split into two because it has different positions regarding the two international instruments listed therein. Since this was not possible, the delegation had been forced to place both recommendations in the group of those which do not enjoy the support of Nicaragua and, thus, are noted. The Nicaraguan State has a transparent and well-known position on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, for which it cannot accept any recommendation that requires accession to that international instrument. Nonetheless, the State will sovereignly consider the possibility of becoming a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The Government will send its views vis-à-vis this international instrument along with the position of those recommendations contained in paragraph 116.

119. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Nicaragua was headed by Ms. Ana Isabel Morales Mazun, Minister for the Interior and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Carlos Robelo Raffone, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua in Geneva;
 - Ms. Alina Arguello González, Director General of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Maria Elsa Frixione Ocon, Chief of the International Criminal Affairs, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Attorney General;
 - Mr. Nestor Cruz Toruño, Deputy Permanent Representative of Nicaragua in Geneva.
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